FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-134
Thursday
15 July 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-134

CONTENTS

15 July 1993

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

- 'Abd-al-Shafi Denies Knowledge of Secret Meetings *[AL-NAHAR 14 Jul]* 1
- Palestinians Present Four-Point Plan to Ross *[JORDAN TIMES 15-16 Jul]* 1
- 'Ashrawi: Palestinian Position on Issues Unchanged *[HA'ARETZ 14 Jul]* 1
- 'Arafat Says Negotiations at 'Crisis Point' *[London AL-WASAT 12-18 Jul]* 2
- 'Arafat Discusses Peace Talks With UK Envoy in Tunis *[Algiers VOP]* 6
  - Meets With Norwegian Foreign Minister *[Algiers VOP]* 6
- 'Abd-al-Shafi Calls For Collective Leadership *[AL-QUDS 10 Jul]* 7
  - Supports Limiting 'Arafat's Power *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
- Officials Emphasize Importance of Jerusalem Issue *[MENA]* 7
- Fatah Concludes Talks With Factions in Damascus *[Algiers VOP]* 8
  - Zaki Comments on Meetings *[AL-RA'Y 14 Jul]* 8
- PFLP's Habash Calls For Joint Political Program *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 9
- Lease With Tunisia Denied; Financial Crisis Detailed *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 5 Jul]* 9
- Islamic Jihad Asks Jordan To Release Arrested Leader *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

- Government Official Assassinated in Blida Province *[Algiers Radio]* 10
- Deputy Public Prosecutor Assassinated in Kouba *[Algiers TV]* 10
- Three Special Courts Issue 105 Death Sentences *[MAP]* 10

Egypt

- Mubarak on Domestic Issues, Peace Talks, Sudan *[MENA]* 10
- Press Analyzes Relations With U.S., Shaykh Issue 11
  - 'Crisis' in Ties With U.S. Viewed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 4 Jul]* 11
  - Change in Ties Linked With Clinton Era *[AL-AKHBAR 8 Jul]* 12
  - U.S. 'Game' With Shaykh Uncovered *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 4 Jul]* 13
- G-7 Demands Seen To Pose 'Great Challenge' for Clinton *[AL-AHRAM 10 Jul]* 13
- Islamic Group Accuses Christians of Bombings *[AL-AHALI 7 Jul]* 14
- Sudanese Authorities Release 5 Egyptian Detainees *[AL-AHRMA ALMASA'I 6 Jul]* 14
- Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks *[MENA]* 14
- Nigerian Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak *[MENA]* 14
- Natural Gas Discovery Found South of Marsa Matruh *[AL-AKHBAR 8 Jul]* 14

Libya

- Envoy to Arab League Queried on Lockerbie, Ties With West *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Jul]* 14
- 'Massacre' by Foreign Forces in Somalia Condemned *[JANA]* 16

Sudan

- Al-Bashir on Role of International Forces in Somalia *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
- Minister Comments on Relations With Egypt, Somalia *[SUNA]* 17
- Official on Possible 'Abd-al-Rahman Asylum Request *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Jul]* 17
- Iranian Envoy Arrives 13 Jul for Official Visit *[Omdurman Radio]* 17

    - Comments on U.S. Presence in Somalia *[IRNA]* 17
    - Culture Minister on Talks *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
- Iraqi Ambassador on Oil Blockade, U.S. *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
- Libyan Official Visits To Discuss Relations *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
- Minister Reports Rebels Surrendering *[SUNA]* 18
- Transitional Assembly Approves Press Act *[Omdurman Radio]* 18

Western Sahara

- Tribal Leaders Postpone 15 Jul Meeting *[Algiers Radio]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

* GCC Exchange of Ambassadors 'Almost Complete' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Jul]* 20

Kuwait

- Foreign Minister Backs Law on Trying Ministers *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Jul]* 20
- * Deputies Ask Interior Minister To Resign *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Jul]* 20

Saudi Arabia

- King Fahd Receives, Decorates General Powell *[SPA]* 21
- Government To Build Bosnian Refugee Camps in Albania *[Riyadh TV]* 21
- Deputy Chairman of Consultative Council Appointed *[Riyadh Radio]* 22

United Arab Emirates

- * Government Demarcates Territorial Waters *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Jul]* 22

IRAQ

- Minister Halts UN Oil Talks, Awaits 'Fresh Instructions' *[AFP]* 23
- UN's Ekeus Arrives in Baghdad, 'Hopeful' of Results *[AFP]* 23
- Russian Statement on UN Cameras 'Crisis' Criticized *[INA]* 24
- Daily Says Fulfilling Commitments UN's 'Only Option' *[INA]* 24
- Ministers, Assembly Speaker Cable Saddam on Anniversary *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
- Cuban Official Notes Similarities Between Countries *[INA]* 25
- Paper Attacks Saudis for Decorating General Powell *[INA]* 25
- Qatari Criticism of 'Malicious' Kuwaiti Press Cited *[INA]* 25
- Arab League Delegate, OAU Official Confer in Cairo *[INA]* 26
- Negotiations Under Way for Satellite TV Channel *[AFP]* 26
- SAIRI Head Warns of 'Catastrophe' in South *[IRNA]* 26
- Military Commander Reportedly Captured, Executed *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 27
- Travel to Jordan Slows Down to 'Mere Trickle' *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 27

ISRAEL

- Peres Proposes Negotiations on Permanent Arrangement *[HA'ARETZ 15 Jul]* 28
- Peace Process, Ross Visit Viewed Positively *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Jul]* 28
- Rabin Aide Denies Knowledge of Agreement on Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
- Government Said Conveying 'Restraint' on Lebanon *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
- Government Urged Not To Relax Stance Toward Syria *[HA'OLAM HAZE 14 Jul]* 29
- Iran Reportedly Warns Against Attacking Hizballah *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Jul]* 30
- Rabin, Estonia's Laar Sign Cooperation Agreements *[DAVAR 14 Jul]* 30
- Commentary Criticizes U.S. Strike on Iraq *[HA'ARETZ 15 Jul]* 30
- Failure of Arrow Missile Test Launch Reported 31
    - Malfunction Blamed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
    - Details Reported *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
- Opposition Factions Submit No-Confidence Motions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
- Police Prevent Attempt To Set Up Golan Settlement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32

  - Two Trucks Allowed To Remain *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 32
- Minister Shahal Comments on Palestinian Police Force *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 32
- IDF Document Reports Decrease in Arab Fatalities *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 32
- IDF Responds to Report on Child Casualty Toll *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 33
- Arab Killed, Another Wounded by Border Police *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 33

JORDAN

- Al-Majali on Election Issues, Detainees, Marches *[Amman Radio]* ... 34
- PLO's 'Abbas Departs Amman 14 Jul, Heads for Tunis *[Amman Radio]* ... 34
- Paper Praises Jordanian-Palestinian Committee Meetings *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 14 Jul]* ... 34
- U.S. Urged Not To Blame Arabs for Failed Ross Tour *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Jul]* ... 35
- Jordanian Arab Democratic Party Receives License *[AL-RA'Y 13 Jul]* ... 35

LEBANON

- Officials Meet To Review Developments in South *[Beirut Radio]* ... 36
- Cabinet Discusses Israeli Aggression *[Beirut Radio]* ... 36
- SLA, IDF Return 'Terrorist' Fire Overnight *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 36
- Amal Claims Responsibility for Katyusha Attack *[VOM]* ... 36
- Al-Hariri, Buwayz Receive Qatari Foreign Minister *[Beirut Radio]* ... 36

SYRIA

- Khaddam Holds Talks With Iraqi Opposition Delegation *[SANA]* ... 37
- Commentaries View Ross Mission, Obstacles to Peace ... 37
  - Difficulty of Mission Analyzed *[Damascus Radio]* ... 37
  - Pressure on Israel Urged *[Damascus Radio]* ... 38
  - Arab Response to Peace Efforts Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* ... 38
- Palestinian Students Reportedly Detained *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Jul]* ... 39

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Dostam Meets With Mazari, Hekmatyar Envoys *[Kabul Radio]* ... 40
  - Said Offered Two Cabinet Posts *[AFP]* ... 40
- Cabinet Discusses Security, Talks With Dostam *[Kabul Radio]* ... 40
- Commission, Parties Agree on Weapons Distribution *[Kabul Radio]* ... 41
- Rabbani Discusses ECO Meeting, Selection of Ministers *[Kabul Radio]* ... 41

Bangladesh

- Parliament Adopts Nuclear Safety Bill *[AFP]* ... 44
- General Amnesty for Tribal Rebels Extended to 31 Dec *[AFP]* ... 44
  - 'Concessions' Offered for Refugees' Return *[Delhi Radio]* ... 45
- Court Orders Release of Fundamentalist; Tension Mounts *[AFP]* ... 45
- Minister on Resolving Farakka Dam Issue With India *[Dhaka Radio]* ... 46

India

- Minister Comments on Ties With Central Asian States *[Delhi Radio]* ... 46
- Agreement Signed With Vietnam on Oil, Gas Cooperation *[Delhi Radio]* ... 46
- Commentary Analyzes Outcome of Tokyo G-7 Summit *[Delhi International]* ... 46

Iran

- Khamene'i Says U.S. 'Animosity' Doomed to Defeat *[Tehran Radio]* ... 47
- Velayati, Russian Deputy Minister Discuss Bosnia *[IRNA]* ... 48
  - Kunadze Urges Expanded Ties *[IRNA]* ... 49
- Commentaries Discuss ICO Decision on Force for Bosnia ... 49

    More Effective Muslim Role Needed *[Tehran Radio]* 49
    Decision Within UN Framework *[Tehran International]* 50
Bosnian Diplomat Discusses Lack of Assistance *[KEYHAN 29 Jun]* 50
Trade Officials Views Growing Links With Germany *[IRNA]* 51
Economic Official Visits Malaysia, Invites Investment *[IRNA]* 52
Government Releases Last Batch of Iraqi Troops *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Notes Shortage of Medicines *[IRNA]* 53

Pakistan

AFP Reports Armed Troops Moving Into Islamabad 53
Sharif Confident of Failure of Long March *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Interior Minister Meets Army Leaders on Long March *[DAWN 15 Jul]* 53
Punjab Declines To Deploy Constabulary in Islamabad *[THE NEWS 14 Jul]* 54
Bhutto Denies Claiming President's Support for March *[THE MUSLIM 14 Jul]* 54
JUP Delegation Assures Sharif of Full Support *[Islamabad TV]* 55
Sharif Reaffirms Opposition to Midterm Elections *[DAWN 14 Jul]* 55
Sharif, Khan Said To Reach 'Weak Consensus' on Polls *[THE FRONTIER POST 14 Jul]* 56
Sharif Proposes 'Immediate' Meeting With Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Daily Views Military's Role in Political Crisis *[NAWA-I-WAQT 8 Jul]* 57
Police Charge MQM With Promoting Karachi Violence *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
PLO's Qaddumi Meets With Ishaq Khan, Kanjoo *[Islamabad TV]* 59
Foreign NGO's in NWFP Ordered To Close; Arabs To Be Deported *[THE NEWS 14 Jul]* 59

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi Denies Knowledge of Secret Meetings

TA1407142393 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] Gaza, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator to the Middle East peace talks, has denied knowledge of any secret contacts between the Israeli Government and the PLO leadership. He said, however, that if such contacts do exist, nobody can prevent them nor do they obligate anyone.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that if the negotiators reach some sort of agreement, they should inform the negotiating delegation of this. He added: "Any agreement reached will be subject to discussion. And if it is accepted, it will be peddled publicly through the table of negotiations." He pointed out that no agreement can be reached in separation from the official negotiating process.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi denied the existence of external threats to the Palestinian negotiating delegation with the aim of forcing them to accept what is being proposed at the table of negotiations. He said: "We do not accept threats from anyone."

On the Palestinian delegation's presentation two days ago of new formulations to the U.S. peace team, led by Dennis Ross, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that he was not acquainted with those formulations because, apparently, they were sent directly from the Palestinian leadership in Tunis to the U.S. envoy. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that "it was not possible to reach agreement on anything without the knowledge of everyone, but it seems that lack of time was the reason in presenting the new proposals. I did not take part in the meetings, but I will begin immediate contacts to learn the nature of those proposals." [passage omitted]

Palestinians Present Four-Point Plan to Ross

JN1507100993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15-16 Jul 93 pp 1,10

["Combined agency dispatches"]

[Excerpt] Amman—Palestinians, in a four-point draft handed to Washington, have insisted they should control the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab East Jerusalem during interim self-rule, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources said Wednesday [14 July].

The PLO-formulated draft was handed to Dennis Ross, overall coordinator of the Middle East peace process, during a regional tour to try to rescue the faltering talks and bridge Palestinian-Israeli differences over self-government.

A PLO source summarised the four points for Reuters in Amman as follows:

—It is a general principle that the substance of discussions on territorial jurisdiction in the interim phase of negotiations will not affect the question of sovereignty in the negotiations over the final status of the occupied territories.

—The negotiations on the interim phase will not prejudge the result of the negotiations on the permanent status of the occupied territories.

On the other hand, both negotiations are directed to achieve the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects.

—The Palestinian authority will exert its territorial jurisdiction over occupied territories that were not under Israeli administration before June 4, 1967 (a day before the Middle East war), including Jerusalem.

—The occupied territories will be a single entity with one legal system.

Another PLO source said Palestinians made it clear to Mr. Ross they were ready to discuss "functional exceptions" presented by Israel. But would not accept any territorial compromise.

Mr. Ross flew back home from Israel Wednesday after intensive talks with Arab, Israeli and Palestinian leaders to save the 20-month-old talks amid no explicit signs of progress. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi: Palestinian Position on Issues Unchanged

TA1407160793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 93 p 2

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] The third and final meeting between members of the Palestinian delegation and the U.S. peace team led by Dennis Ross has ended. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation said there was no progress in bridging the gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian positions. She added that the Palestinians' position on the key issues of Jerusalem and the autonomy's territorial jurisdiction remain unchanged.

Still, 'Ashrawi stated that there is room for hope and that contacts with the Americans will continue even after the U.S. team leaves for the United States. According to 'Ashrawi, the date for the 11th round of negotiations has not been discussed. Also, the U.S. team will return home with several draft formulations of the basic, substantive issues. During yesterday's meeting the U.S. team members made it clear that these drafts will serve as a basis for a U.S. effort to try and consolidate a bridging document which will constitute a proposal for a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles. On the basis of the results of the U.S. peace team's trip, Secretary of State Warren Christopher will decide whether or not to visit the region.

'Ashrawi reported that the Americans presented her delegation with their initial, general reaction to the Palestinian position paper submitted to them the day before yesterday. The Americans also presented their positions about an early transfer of the areas of responsibility from the Israeli authorities to the Palestinian self-government. 'Ashrawi, who described this as an Israeli-U.S. proposal, said that the Palestinians rejected it, claiming that it is premature and may damage the peace process.

The two sides also discussed the coordination talks conducted between Jordan and the PLO in Amman which led to the establishment of six [as published] committees (for discussion of the issues of Jerusalem, the refugees, the 1967 uprooted Arabs, security and borders, economy, water, and legislation).

'Ashrawi emphasized that the position paper her delegation submitted to the U.S. team did not include any new components in the Palestinian position, especially with regard to the Palestinian self-government's territorial jurisdiction and including Jerusalem in it. According to 'Ashrawi, this was only a renewed formulation of the well-known Palestinian positions, with no connection to the U.S. document.

'Ashrawi said that senior PLO officials visited Egypt over the last few days. Together with Egyptian representatives they developed and formulated the Palestinian position in a constructive manner, but no official Egyptian-Palestinian paper was worked out.

Palestinian sources noted that an Egyptian document which contains a compromise proposal was relayed to Tunis, and the PLO position was consolidated on the basis of this document. The PLO position paper was then relayed to the Palestinian delegation on Monday evening [12 July], only two hours before its second meeting with the U.S. team, and this angered several delegation members who felt that Tunis does not allow them to play an active role in decisionmaking.

'Ashrawi denied reports that the Palestinians are considering changes in their positions in return for Israeli gestures such as including Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, in the official delegation for negotiations and stopping the isolation of Jerusalem from the territories, in exchange for removing it from the deliberations on the interim arrangements. 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian position on Jerusalem is consistent and stipulates that the city is part of the occupied territories.

According to 'Ashrawi, there is no intention to remove the city from the framework of the agreement. She said that direct PLO-Israeli contacts are the easiest and shortest way to obtain positive results in the negotiations, but added that she settles for the Israeli as well as the PLO denials concerning their secret contacts.

Five of the Palestinian delegation members arrived at the meeting which took place at the U.S. Consulate building in West Jerusalem yesterday. Participating in the meeting besides Hanan 'Ashrawi were Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Nabil Qassis, Zakariya al-Agha, and Sami al-Kilani. Ghassan al-Khatib, a delegation member on behalf of the Palestinian People's Party, boycotted the second meeting with the U.S. team, as he did the earlier one. The background for the boycott is his opposition to the submittal of any Palestinian document to the Americans, a move that he interprets as an agreement to negotiate the U.S. document.

Many of the Palestinian delegation members believe that the time has come to demand that the other partners to the negotiations ignore the Madrid formula and directly discuss the components of the permanent settlement. This trend which, according to Palestinian sources, constitutes a key point in the Palestinian negotiations strategy, is indirectly reflected in 'Ashrawi's remarks too. She noted that the Israeli-Palestinian track of talks has been deadlocked for a long time now, and the Madrid formula was found to have numerous flaws, but nevertheless, "there is a chance for progress with the help of goodwill, creativity, and a political resolve."

Ghassan al-Khatib who, together with Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, his party colleague and another delegation member, boycotted the ninth and 10th rounds of talks in Washington, demanded that the negotiations procedures be changed and that issues relevant to the permanent solution be discussed first, even in a general manner. In his opinion, if the parties know how the course of the negotiations is expected to end, it will be easier for them to consolidate the interim agreements in a manner that will be satisfactory to all.

[In a related report by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 14 July Hanan 'Ashrawi emphasizes the importance of reaching a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles, adding though: "If there is no declaration on principles, then it means that we haven't been able to reach an agreement on the minimal level, on the starting points, and on, as I said, bases and frameworks. In that sense maybe we have to think of different alternatives, and as I said, creative and bearing alternatives that this peace process has reached a dead end, so maybe something else can be worked out. That would involve, perhaps, higher-level contacts, leadership on both sides. That would involve dealing with permanent status directly maybe. I don't know, but these are issues that have to be borne in mind. I don't think one should abandon the pursuit of peace if one mechanism or vehicle fails."]

'Arafat Says Negotiations at 'Crisis Point'

PM1407130093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 12-18 Jul 93 pp 28-31

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, by Zaki Shihab in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] Fatah's recent meetings caused a storm, particularly after your threat to resign. What did happen during those meetings?

['Arafat] I wish they would accept my resignation. Do you think that Palestinian work from my position is easy? I have submitted my resignation more than once to the Central Committee, the Executive Committee, and the [Palestine] National Council [PNC]. Did I not tell them in the PNC: Brothers, find someone else? I am willing to be just a soldier in the field, but they do not want that.

[Shihab] Why did you call for the trial of [Fatah Central Committee member] Hani al-Hasan?

['Arafat] These are strange reports. He is here with me in the next room.

[Shihab] But there has been no denial of the claims about your call for his trial or demands by others that you be held accountable?

['Arafat] If we were to deny everything that appears in the press it would mean entering into many contradictions. Denial of one report means confirmation of its opposite. If there is any significance to all this, it is that it shows how important the Fatah meetings are as the backbone of the organization.

[Shihab] Some reports spoke of dissent by some members of the Central Committee. Do you believe the Palestinian situation can tolerate that?

['Arafat] There is nothing of that sort. Repetition of the question only feeds false rumors. Furthermore, have we ever prevented any split from the movement? Most of those who had broken away have returned to our ranks.

[Shihab] Such as?

['Arafat] I do not wish to give names, but they have returned.

[Shihab] There is increasing talk about the PLO's financial crisis. What are the proposed solutions?

['Arafat] Some Arab states are still holding PLO funds, funds that are due to the PLO. Some of them have stopped their aid to us. The PLO has not received any aid for 39 months now.

[Shihab] To what extent does that affect the PLO's political activity?

['Arafat] When we started the revolution, we did not do so with money.

[Shihab] It has been claimed that some Fatah leaders have been called to account for administrative and financial misconduct. How true is that?

['Arafat] The accountability process has never stopped. Some have been sent to prison while others have been proved innocent. We are proud of that, thank God. We punish and take people to task even if the wrongdoer is Yasir 'Arafat himself. He too is accountable and open to question. Nobody is above Palestinian law. You can ask the brothers.

[Shihab] There is a feeling of sadness among large sectors of Palestinians in Jordan and Lebanon because the revolution has abandoned them after they spent years serving it. Why have the families of the martyrs or the wounded been abandoned? Even the fighters have not received their salaries for some time.

['Arafat] First of all, we have not abandoned anyone. The families of the martyrs have not received their allocations for only two months.

[Shihab] Did you issue a decision dissolving Fatah's military wing in Lebanon?

['Arafat] I have not done that, nor can I do it. Such a decision is made by the PNC. There is no such thing as Fatah's military wing. All the military come under PNC law. They are the Palestine National Liberation Army. Not Yasir 'Arafat or the Executive Committee or the Central Committee can make such a decision. Only the PNC can make such a decision.

[Shihab] Scores of Abu-Nidal's supporters in Lebanon have been released over the past two days. What is the truth about that?

['Arafat] We detained those who committed crimes. They are still in detention but we have released the Abu-Nidal supporters who have done nothing.

[Shihab] Recently there have been attempts to stop inter-Palestinian assassinations. What is the outcome?

['Arafat] They will not stop because Abu-Nidal's decisions are not his own. They are always made by the Mossad and other intelligence services.

[Shihab] During the Central Committee meeting a committee was formed for dialogue with other factions.

['Arafat] Yes, and it includes Hani al-Hasan and Nasri Yusuf.

[Shihab] What is so special about this committee, bearing in mind that previous committees achieved no results?

['Arafat] First of all, it reflects Fatah's determination to promote Palestinian unity and put the Palestinian house in order whenever there is any disorder. There are organizations within the PLO and outside it which are interested in such broad dialogue. This committee will embark on this task thoroughly.

[Shihab] What are your expectations?

['Arafat] There is another committee emanating from the Executive Committee and headed by brother Yasir 'Amr, and the PNC speaker's office has also been assigned a task in this connection. Our unity is our strongest shield.

[Shihab] The dialogue with Hamas has produced no results.

['Arafat] That is not important. The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Sudan is our witness, but we will not stop the dialogue with them.

[Shihab] Did the Muslim Brotherhood support you against Hamas?

['Arafat] Ask them. I do not wish to speak for anyone else.

[Shihab] What is the PLO's position on Israel's intention to withdraw from Gaza first?

['Arafat] If they want to withdraw let them withdraw and we will have the United Nations in their place. We cannot ask them to stay, but if they want disengagement in Gaza, as in the Golan, Sinai, and Lebanon, then that must also include the West Bank because we insist on the unity of the sacred Palestinian territory.

[Shihab] How prepared are you to take over the Gaza Strip?

['Arafat] I do not wish to indulge in wishful thinking between us and the enemy.

[Shihab] There are those who maintain that the aim of any sudden Israeli withdrawal would be to foment sedition or even civil war or conflict, between Hamas and Fatah for instance.

['Arafat] I have met with Butrus-Ghali more than once, but the Israelis reject any role for the United Nations.

[Shihab] Did you offer Dr. Ghali any practical role for the United Nations in the Gaza Strip?

['Arafat] Nothing serious has been offered to us to warrant consultations with the United Nations or anyone else. Our position is basically that any part of Palestinian territory from which the Israelis withdraw should come under the supervision of the United Nations, multinational forces, or even a neutral body, in participation and coordination with the PLO leadership, of course.

[Shihab] You interrupted the Fatah Central Committee meetings three weeks ago and flew to Geneva to meet with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. Why?

['Arafat] To follow up the question of Iraq's donation of $30 million worth of oil and to help make progress with the United Nations in order to put an end to the starvation in the Gaza Strip.

[Shihab] And did you make any progress?

['Arafat] We are awaiting the results of the UN meetings this month.

[Shihab] Your mediation between Sudan and Egypt on the sidelines of the African summit conference produced a meeting between the two countries' leaders. Do you expect the improvement in the situation to continue?

['Arafat] I am proud of that mediation, and I expect it to produce all that is good for both countries.

[Shihab] Why does the PLO continue to participate in the negotiations although they have produced nothing tangible?

['Arafat] First of all, it should be understood that our position stems from an Arab position committed to the peace process initiated by President George Bush based on the land-for-peace principle and Resolutions 242 and 338, meaning withdrawal from all the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories, especially holy Jerusalem and including the occupied Arab territories in the Golan and southern Lebanon, and also meaning security for all states in the region.

We agreed with the Arab states to participate in the negotiations provided we adopt a unified position on the peace process, emphasizing that the solution must be comprehensive and that the Israelis must not be allowed to deal with one party without the others. We cannot say that we are very enthusiastic about the process but we want to let it take its course under this new world order in which many cards have been reshuffled with new states emerging and other states disappearing, and in difficult Arab circumstances which have undermined Arab solidarity and unity because of the Gulf crisis. We also wanted to expose the real Israeli enemy to the world and to show that what it wants is not peace but capitulation, but it will not achieve that on the Arab or Palestinian levels. We Palestinians are the ones who fight and negotiate just as the prophet fought and Salah al-Din negotiated, and just as the Algerians and the Vietnamese did.

[Shihab] Is a return to the military option still valid as far as the PLO leadership is concerned?

['Arafat] We have the intifadah and the resistance. They will continue until the end of the Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories, especially Jerusalem, and until the Palestinian flag is raised over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Palestine in a confederation with Jordan in accordance with our PNC resolution and with the free and voluntary choice made by the two fraternal peoples.

Having participated in the 10th round of negotiations after increasing American insistence, and having participated in the eighth round with a small delegation, and in the ninth round after considerable American insistence, the Palestinian leadership will meet to assess the results of the 10th round and will be frank with our Arab brothers when we convey to them our new position. If they happen to have the same position we will make a major assessment of the situation. We will hold consultations and talks with all our Arab brothers because this peace is not only Palestinian peace but also Arab peace.

[Shihab] Since the 10th round has not produced tangible results for the Palestinians and the Arabs, will it be the last?

['Arafat] I will not be specific. That is something that will be decided by the Palestinian leadership when it meets to assess the results.

[Shihab] You said that there was increasing American insistence. Do you mean that there were many promises that were not kept?

['Arafat] There were many promises including promises regarding the old and new deportees, improvement of the economic situation, and an end to the starvation in Gaza, and also regarding Jerusalem which we consider to be central. Yes, it is the capital of the Palestinian state but it is also important to the Arab and Islamic nations and to every Muslim in the world, for it is the first qibla [to which Muslims turn in their prayers], has the third holy mosque, and from it the Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, and Christ, may peace be upon him, ascended to heaven.

[Shihab] What were the American promises regarding Jerusalem, for instance?

['Arafat] The Americans support all the UN resolutions opposing annexation and the settlements. That is officially known. They do not recognize the annexation and they have taken a stand on that. It is not identical with the Arab position or the Palestinian position but nor is it identical with the Israeli position. We were promised that the measures taken by Israel would be confronted but that has not happened yet.

[Shihab] Some members of the Palestinian delegation say that they went to the 10th round on the basis of a decision by the Palestinian leadership...

['Arafat] And do you think that they went to the Madrid conference without a decision from the Palestinian leadership? I can state now that the Palestinian delegation participated in the Madrid conference on the basis of a decree issued by the president of the state of Palestine and the PLO chairman. I state that for the record.

[Shihab] What I meant was that they had never been as pessimistic as they are now. They attribute that pessimism to the fact that the U.S. Administration has dissociated itself from everything President Bush's administration did.

['Arafat] We are putting the current U.S. Administration to the test. Is it committed to the Bush peace initiative of Bush and the negotiations' terms of reference, namely the land-for-peace principle, implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and security for all states of the region? Is it committed to the letter of invitation and the assurances given by the former U.S. Administration and the conference cosponsors, or are there new grounds?

A meeting was recently held between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the Palestinian delegation. Brother Faysal al-Husayni, who headed the Palestinian side, conveyed all these points frankly and clearly during his meeting with Christopher and the meeting between the U.S. and Palestinian delegations. All aspects of this issue were discussed thoroughly and in detail.

[Shihab] Why do the Palestinians insist that the United States should play the part of full partner even though more than one Arab official has described that as a "double-edged sword"?

['Arafat] We have, from the beginning, called for the intervention of the cosponsors of the conference, not just one sponsor, because they are sponsors not spectators. Otherwise the Israelis would sidestep the terms of reference I mentioned earlier, such as the letter of invitation to the conference, the Bush initiative, and the letter of assurances, with Jerusalem, for instance, at the top of the list, and including such issues as the Israeli measures to change the situation on the ground, the settlements, the confiscation of land, and the bad economic situation. On the last item I tell our Arab nation it is wrong that the struggling people in the Palestinian occupied territory should suffer while you just act as spectators watching them suffer.

[Shihab] Do you expect a change in the U.S. approach to the peace process?

['Arafat] That is the assumption, because the negotiations have reached a crisis point.

[Shihab] The Americans complain that the participating delegations do not have full authority. What are the limits of the authority given to the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations?

['Arafat] The Palestinian delegation has full authority. It submitted a document for the declaration of principles but the Israeli delegation does not want a solution and does not seek fulfillment of objectives that would benefit the peace process. It just wants to play for time. The difference between Rabin and Shamir is that Shamir presented his ideas as they were written on paper, whereas Rabin gives beautiful headlines but the substance is the same as Shamir's. That, for example, applies to such issues as "territorial unity," positions but no authority for the Palestinian Government, and the iron fist. Shamir could not deport 400 citizens, but Rabin did. The iron-fist measures are now worse than they were in the days of Shamir. The Israeli delegation does not want a solution. It just wants to gain time.

[Shihab] Was the question of the restoration of the dialogue between Washington and the PLO raised recently with U.S. officials?

['Arafat] That issue is officially raised all the time. We had an official promise from (former U.S. Secretary of State) James Baker. Just for the record, when our delegation met with President Bush after the elections and reminded him of his and Baker's promise, he said: "After the elections I am a lame duck." That lame duck signed the START II agreement (with Russian President Yeltsin) and the agricultural economic agreement (GATT) with Europe. He also launched an economic battle against Japan and Latin America, but on the Palestinian question he remained a lame duck.

[Shihab] What do you want from the current U.S. Administration?

['Arafat] To fulfill its promise. Is it not one and the same administration under the old and new president? It represents the United States.

[Shihab] What was Christopher's reply when the Palestinian delegation raised that matter? Did he make new conditions?

['Arafat] Not at all.

[Shihab] Why?

['Arafat] For nothing. They have no answer.

[Shihab] Are you satisfied with the cooperation and understanding among the Arab delegations?

['Arafat] It is not bad. It is not as it should be but it is not bad.

[Shihab] What is needed to improve it?

['Arafat] More coordination in all fields.

[Shihab] You have for some time been addressing messages to Rabin and urging the establishment of a "peace of the brave." Have you received any reply?

['Arafat] I have received no reply whatsoever but I challenge Rabin.

[Shihab] Why this disregard?

['Arafat] He is trying to say, we let the delegation consult with you and go to Tunis to receive your orders and, therefore, we are negotiating with you, but there is no practical logic in that. Peace is more difficult than war. That is why I urged him to have the courage and the will to make peace.

[Shihab] Some time ago King Hassan II said that he was trying to bring you and Yitzhaq Rabin together. Have you heard anything in this connection?

['Arafat] I thank His Majesty King Hassan but I have declared my willingness to meet with Rabin even in the negotiations, as heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations, or at the United Nations or in the Security Council.

[Shihab] Have there been any contacts with King Hassan in that respect?

['Arafat] No, there have been no contacts on that but we are continuously in contact with King Hassan on other issues. Do not forget that he is the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee.

[Shihab] It has been claimed that you gave the Austrian chancellor a message for Rabin. What did it say?

['Arafat] The chancellor himself has stated that this is not true.

[Shihab] From time to time criticism is made of the European role in the peace process. What do you expect of the Europeans?

['Arafat] To play an effective part. ['Arafat ends]

Before Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] prepared to leave the room to follow what was going on between the negotiators in Washington, I asked him one final question: "When will every father's wish of having children be fulfilled?" He replied: "God gives to whomever he wants, and God is generous."

'Arafat Discusses Peace Talks With UK Envoy in Tunis

LD1307173093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received the British ambassador to Tunisia in Tunis today. The latest developments in the peace negotiations were discussed in light of the deadlock the process has reached and the U.S. paper, which the Palestinian side regards as a departure from the principles and points of reference on which the peace process has been based since the Madrid conference.

Meets With Norwegian Foreign Minister

LD1407183793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday evening received Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst and the delegation accompanying him. Discussions during the meeting focused on the state of the peace process and its latest developments, beginning with the terrible conditions imposed for attending the Madrid conference, the Israeli obduracy to foil the peace process, the insistence of the Israeli side and then the U.S. side to ignore the terms of reference of the negotiating process, and the letters of reassurances from sponsors to participants, as well as the promises to give an impulse to the peace process and to avoid anything likely to threaten the peace process.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar touched upon the Israeli measures to try to impose cases of fait accompli, such as settlement, the closing of the occupied territories, and the policy of deliberate starvation of our people, especially in the Gaza Strip, in addition to the confiscation of land and the acts of random killing and arrests.

Brother president Abu-'Ammar also touched upon the fact that the Israeli side and the new U.S. document ignore the situation of occupied Jerusalem as an indivisible part of the occupied territories and the geographical jurisdiction over the occupied territories, given that these two issues constitute the basis of any progress toward the realization of peace.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar blamed the Israeli side for the failure of rounds nine and 10 by its insistence on not entering into matters of substance and recourse to the style of trickery and procrastination in order to gain time and impose a fait accompli in the occupied territories.

The Norwegian minister stressed his country's support for the peace process, to secure its success and a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on justice and on granting the Palestinian people its right to self-determination.

'Abd-al-Shafi Calls For Collective Leadership

TA1407190893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Jul 93 pp 11, 18

[By Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating delegation: "A Second Message to the Palestinian Masses"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] When our national leadership assigned us—me and my colleagues in the negotiating delegation—the task of negotiating in the name of the Palestinian people, we responded positively to this assignment because we were convinced of the importance of participating in the peace process and because of our respect for the leadership's decision. From the outset, the Palestinian masses displayed their great confidence in us. They considered adherence to our natural rights of self-determination, the establishment of an independent state, and repatriation as a trust deposited with us. This increased our feeling about the great responsibility in this mission. Therefore, from the outset, we chose the approach of openness, frank reasoning, and sincerity in dealing with our leadership and masses, as well as with the organizations opposed to the negotiating process. We tried to be as close to the masses as possible so that they would question us, make suggestions, and criticize us. We considered this to be our major responsibility in order to remain true to reality and not lose the way. [passage omitted]

We had hoped that the U.S. Administration (the U.S. sponsor) would use all possible means to force Israel to halt settlement activity, but it failed to do so. The negotiating impasse developed over the Israeli position, which is not committed to the negotiating terms of reference, Resolution 242, and over Israel's allegation that it is not an occupying state. Hence, the occupied territories are not occupied but disputed territories and Israel can make any claim on them.

This Israeli position became clear when we demanded that the Palestinian transitional government should have full jurisdiction over land and population during the interim period. Israel objected to and continues to object to this demand. Moreover, from the outset, Israel insisted on excluding Jerusalem from the negotiating process and keeping for itself freedom of action in the greater Jerusalem area, in accordance with the illegal Israeli decision. We realized for certain that at best Israel wanted to share the land with us and bestow legitimacy on what it had illegally established in the occupied territories—I mean by this the settlements, the settlers, and whatever measures it had taken in the Jerusalem region. This is the essence of the negotiating impasse.

We tried seriously and consistently to induce the U.S. sponsor to fulfill its duty by virtue of respect for the negotiating terms of reference and Resolution 242, to end Israeli maneuvering, and to adhere to the provisions of international legitimacy, the Geneva Conventions, the UN resolutions, and the contents of the letter of assurances, but to no avail. I cannot describe the current U.S. stance as other than being biased in favor of Israel. It cannot be described as the stance of a neutral sponsor. This is how the negotiations ended at the conclusion of the 10th round. [passage omitted]

Here lies the great challenge that, regrettably, we are still avoiding despite the fact that the historical experience is crystal clear: We cannot be liberated except by the establishment of a collective leadership on a democratic and sound basis—a leadership that can impose peaceful organizational measures in all spheres and move forward on a scientific and objective basis. I say this with due respect for all previous and successive leaderships and without abusing the status of any. The moment is such that it requires from me nothing but frankness and honesty. Personally, I do not feel any frustration. Everyone knows that I have no personal ambitions for position or leadership. [passage omitted]

Supports Limiting 'Arafat's Power

TA1507045693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the cohead of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has called for radical reforms in the PLO and curbs on the power of Yasir 'Arafat. Speaking last night in Gaza to a REUTER news agency reporter, 'Abd-al-Shafi said he was not calling for the removal of the PLO leader but that there should be what he called a collective leadership. 'Abd-al-Shafi said he could not condone Yasir 'Arafat's being the sole source of the PLO's decisionmaking process, a situation, he said, which is detrimental to the Palestinian cause.

Officials Emphasize Importance of Jerusalem Issue

NC1407163193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian sources have said that Jerusalem is one of the most important issues on which attention is being focused in the intensive contacts in the region that aim to resume the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

AL-MUSAWWAR's 16 July edition focuses on its weekly seminar, which discusses this important and fundamental issue. For this seminar, it chose a unoptimistic headline in the form of the following question: Will the peace effort break up on the rock of Jerusalem? The following Palestinian figures participated in the seminar: Dr. Nabil

Sha'th, chairman of the Palestinian delegation's command committee; Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary General Muhammad Subayh Amin; Palestinian intellectual Dr. Muhammad Sidqi al-Dajjani; and the following two Egyptians, who teach political science in Egyptian Universities, Dr. 'Ali-al-Din Hilal and Dr. Salah 'Amir.

The speakers stressed the importance of opening the Jerusalem file in the Arab-Israeli negotiations to expose the Israeli maneuvers and recall the U.S. promises in the letter of assurances, the Madrid conference principles, and the Security Council and UN resolutions.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that after 22 rounds of negotiations, totaling 45 hours, with the U.S. side and 11 [figure as published] rounds of negotiations with the Israeli side, the United States presented a working paper that omitted the Palestinian people's right to Jerusalem and to the territories in what it labelled the geographic jurisdiction.

Dr. Sha'th said there will be no return to the negotiations unless the two paragraphs on Jerusalem and the territories are changed or amended and the Madrid conference principles are made the terms of reference. He said U.S. guarantees on Jerusalem are written and confirm that Jerusalem is an occupied city, not annexed, that it does not recognize the Israeli annexation, and that the final status of the city will be discussed in the final stage, while the Palestinian delegation can raise the issue of Jerusalem or any other issue in the current negotiations.

Dr. Sha'th said the negotiations during the ninth and 10th rounds achieved some progress represented by the mechanism and substance of the negotiations and that the Palestinian delegation is an independent one, not a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Touching on the Israeli (?measures) in Jerusalem, Dr. Sha'th said Israel has dismembered the city and added areas to it to change its features, adding that these measures have seen this issue being raised. He added: We are not ready to make any concessions on Jerusalem.

Muhammad Subayh said the imbalance created by Israel in Jerusalem has brought about demographic changes. There are now 550,000 Jews, 130,000 Palestinians, and fewer than 5,000 Christians. He said there are dozens of Security Council and other UN resolutions on Jerusalem.

The PNC official stated: The Jerusalem issue represents a real, grave point of conflict with the Israeli side. We have good cards in our hands, which we can exploit: The first card is the strength of the Palestinian struggle in the occupied territories, the second is the power of international legitimacy, the third is a strong Arab stance, and the fourth is the strength of world public opinion.

Dr. al-Dajjani said: What can be done through negotiations and what can be done on the ground should be combined. Israel creates facts on the ground, and we are therefore required to create facts that are exploited at the negotiating table. We must also have action on the ground and an armed struggle that expresses the exercising of our rights. He added: The Jerusalem file must be opened before all the parties. Despite Israel's measures to unify the city, it has obtained no international certificate or law to this effect and the Arabs continue their effort to prove their right.

Dr. 'Ali-al-Din Hilal said Israel shows interest in the self-government authority, while intentionally ignoring the regional framework for its implementation. He said that continuing the negotiations for 22 months means strategic parity exists between the Arabs and Israel.

Fatah Concludes Talks With Factions in Damascus

LD1407184493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] A delegation from the Fatah Movement yesterday in Damascus concluded its talks on the peace process with Palestinian organizations opposed to the negotiations with Israel.

A source close to the participants added that the Fatah delegation yesterday met with representatives from the Popular Struggle Front, 'Abd-al-Majid branch, and the Palestinian Liberation Front, led by Yusuf al-Maqdah.

The delegation had met with the leaders of the two fronts—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—the PFLP-General Command, the Sa'iqah, and the Islamic Jihad Movement.

The Fatah delegation was scheduled to arrive in Amman to meet with representatives from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement.

In addition to the peace process, the Fatah delegation discussed in Damascus the means for achieving Palestinian concord and determining the bases for a comprehensive dialogue between the different Palestinian organizations.

Zaki Comments on Meetings

JN1407090293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Jul 93 p 37

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] 'Abbas Zaki, head of the Fatah delegation to the dialogue with the Palestinian factions aimed to bring order to the Palestinian arena, has stated that he ended his first round of talks in the Syrian capital at dawn yesterday.

In a telephone conversation with AL-RA'Y, Zaki said the Fatah Movement's delegation, which includes Hani al-Hasan and Nasr Yusuf, members of the Fatah Central Committee, and 'Adnan Samarah, secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, heard frank and positive talk from Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and leaders of Palestinian factions within and outside the PLO framework.

He stressed that the Fatah delegation will convey what it heard to the Fatah Central Committee meeting, which will be held in Tunis on 16 July.

Zaki said the delegation of the Fatah Movement, the largest Palestinian faction, has met with several Palestinian groups that are not PLO members, including the Islamic Jihad Movement, led by Fathi al-Shaqaqi, but he said he did not meet with Abu Musa, leader of Fatah-the Uprising.

The Fatah Movement delegation began its meeting with these factions in Damascus last Saturday [10 July], attended by Faruq Qaddumi [head of PLO Political Department], who was visiting the Syrian capital for talks with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'.

This Palestinian dialogue was held at the recommendation of the Palestinian leadership, during its recent meeting in Amman, and the speakership of the Palestine National Council.

PFLP's Habash Calls For Joint Political Program

JN1507071893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has called for ensuring the success of the comprehensive national Palestinian dialogue and avoiding making statements that would disturb it. He also asked all the Palestinian groups to agree to a joint political program that would be the short-term PLO program.

In a statement distributed in Damascus, Habash said that the most important obstacle to the comprehensive national dialogue is the official leadership's participation in the peace talks.

PFLP sources said that during his recent visit to Damascus, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, asked the Palestinian groups not to demand a halt to negotiations as a precondition for resuming the comprehensive national Palestinian dialogue because such a halt would be a difficult move, as he put it.

Lease With Tunisia Denied; Financial Crisis Detailed

NC1307145893 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 5 Jul 93 p 17

[Unattributed report]

[Text] As the PLO financial crisis loomed over the recent meetings of the Fatah Movement's Central Committee in Tunisia, some PLO officials were cited as saying that the contract between the PLO and Tunisia concerning the PLO headquarters has expired.

In exclusive remarks to ROSE AL-YUSUF, PLO ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahman denied the existence of any "written lease" between Tunisia and the PLO concerning the headquarters. We are not tenants, nor is Tunisia renting out its land, he said.

'Abd-al-Rahman pointed out that national obligation is the only binding contract between Tunisia and the PLO. He described the 10-year contract, to which some Palestinians had referred, as total fiction.

As for the transfer of some PLO officials from Tunisia to Libya, 'Abd-al-Rahman said: Nothing of the sort took place. The fact of the matter is that we have a facility in Libya, the Sara camp. This camp is a gift from the Libyan Government, which also pays the salaries of the 1,500 Palestinian employees working there. However, only 300 of those employees actually live in the camp. The rest of them, 1,200, live in Tunisia while being on the Libyan payroll.

'Abd-al-Rahman deplored the fact that some Palestinian employees have developed a taste for a good and easy life. We are a national liberation movement that is passing through financial straits right now, he pointed out. The Palestinian ambassador to Jordan added: Life may be difficult in Libya, but you cannot simply live in Tunisia when your salary is being paid by Tripoli.

It is worth noting that the PLO financial situation took a dive following the Gulf war, as Gulf states discontinued their assistance to the organization. The financial crisis so weakened 'Arafat's position at the recent Fatah meeting that at one point he announced his resignation, which he later retracted.

Meanwhile, disgruntled employees at the Palestinian embassy in Tripoli are said to have fired shots in the embassy building to express their frustration with the delay in the payment of their salaries. Anger and unrest have also mounted among PLO employees in Jordan. The latter have not been paid for three months now, and some have even received eviction notices from their homes.

Islamic Jihad Asks Jordan To Release Arrested Leader

JN1507090793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization-Bayt al-Maqdis today announced that the Jordanian authorities had arrested one of its leaders, Shaykh Ma'mun al-Tamimi. In a statement issued in Beirut, the organization called for releasing Shaykh al-Tamimi so that cooperation with the Jordanian authorities might continue, as the statement put it.

Algeria

Government Official Assassinated in Blida Province

LD1407182693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The National Gendarmerie Command today said that Bourkiz Djilali, chairman of the Executive Commission [replacing elected councils] of El Affroun municipality, Blida province, was assassinated at 0100 at his home by two terrorists.

The National Gendarmerie Command pointed out that the terrorists had sneaked into the victim's house and executed their criminal act using a hunting rifle, in front of his wife and children, and then escaped.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Assassinated in Kouba

LD1407200093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Bida El Arbi, deputy public prosecutor in Algiers court, was assassinated this morning opposite his home in Diar El Afia, in Kouba, while he was on his way to work. The deceased was 30 years old. [passage omitted]

Three Special Courts Issue 105 Death Sentences

LD1407135593 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Algiers, Jul 14 (MAP)—The three special courts set up in Algeria in line with the law against "terrorism and subversion" have up to now issued 105 death sentences against Islamist armed groups.

The special court of Algiers delivered 61 death sentences, that of [place name indistinct] (eastern Algeria) 32 and that of Oran (western Algeria) [number indistinct] according to the Algerian press, no execution was announced up to date.

Forty seven other capital punishments were decided by Algerian courts, particularly military ones before the anti-terrorism and subversion law entered into force last Dec. Six of the sentenced persons were executed, and eight cases were commuted into life jail.

Egypt

Mubarak on Domestic Issues, Peace Talks, Sudan

NC1407205393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1638 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 14 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held an expanded meeting with commanders and officers of the northern military command today.

The meeting was attended by Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi; Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi; commanders of the Armed Forces main branches; speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council; a number of ministers; and leaders of political action at the People's Assembly, the Consultative Council, and the local councils in the governorates of Alexandria and Matruh.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the meeting was characterized by clarity and frankness, with the president discussing national action on the domestic and foreign levels through his answers to questions posed by Armed Forces officers. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif said that in his reply to accusations of subservience, leveled by some media against Egypt, the president said: I tell those who repeat the word subservience that we are not, and will not be, subservient to anyone. Those who reiterate this or think of it are imagining things. The president explained that Egypt has international relations based on mutual respect with the entire world. Egypt has outstanding relations with the United States and the two countries have political and economic cooperation in various fields, he said. The fact that Egypt receives economic aid does not mean any subservience at all, he said, adding: Nothing against our interests can be imposed on us, and our acceptance or refusal is governed only by the public interest. The president said that a relationship based on mutual respect allows its parties to exchange views and respect each other's opinions.

On Western media coverage of terrorist acts in Egypt, President Mubarak explained that, although many world nations witness far more terrorism than Egypt, the media gives greater attention to Egypt because of its special role in the region, and because what harms Egypt reflects on the entire area.

On the results of the last round of talks with the IMF, the president said the points agreed upon are in harmony with our economic interests. He explained the difficulties that faced the talks at every stage before reaching a final agreement with the IMF. He said that an agreement in its final shape has been reached.

The president said that the agreement is a unique model because it took into consideration many intermingled economic and social dimensions in Egypt. [passage omitted]

The president said that within the economic reform program the private and investment sectors are participating in a number of projects in what is called privatization. He said this is going in accordance with a sound and carefully prepared plan to avoid loopholes and maintain the competence and performance of the major economic institutions.

Asked about the exaggeration of corruption in Egypt, President Mubarak stressed that the state does not cover up for corruption, even if committed by the highest people. Stating that Egypt has the least corruption in the world, he added: This does not mean we may cover up for corruption, which harms us, distorts the image of our country in the world, and hurts our sons working abroad. He said Egypt is not a corrupt society. This is not a defense, he said, but I do not agree with or approve of exaggeration or distortion.

The president stressed that it is the state that discovers corruption and brings the corrupt to the courts, which have the final word. [passage omitted]

Referring to some newspapers that are demanding that the Constitution and the way the president is elected be amended, President Mubarak said that every state adopts whatever is suitable to the nature of its people, the conditions under which it practices its democracy, and the economic and social climate of the [word indistinct] stage, adding that a state's constitution reflects all of the above for the sake of achieving freedom and democracy within the framework of preserving the nation's unity and the independence of its will and decision.

The president went on to say that the presidential responsibility is a national one that he is shouldering in the most difficult circumstances in response to the popular will and the requirements of this stage.

Regarding what is published about human rights, President Mubarak said: Human rights are the rights of the honest citizens on Egypt's soil. It is my responsibility to protect their security, possessions, and lives. This is the concept of the people's human rights. Human rights are not the defense of the deceived group that kills the citizens, sheds the blood of innocent children, and steals the citizens' money, or those groups who hit at progress and life. He added: Human rights mean that we should take care of the families of Egyptian sons who were subjected to the ugliest forms of terrorism. I call on the state to take care of the families of the victims of terrorism. The state must be responsible for providing complete and dignified care for the victims' families and should take the initiative in any new legislation in this respect if it is necessary. The president then said: The religion that the renegades profess when committing their evils, aggressions, and killings is not our religion.

On democracy, President Mubarak noted that the democratic process means an opinion and an opposite one. He said: There are people who say no to the National Democratic Party or no for a third term for Mubarak. Every person has the right to voice his view. Democracy is not merely voicing your view but also voting, going to the ballot box and saying yes or no, and choosing whoever best represents you. That is when there is democracy and when its practice becomes positive.

On the procedure for transferring authority in the absence of the president, President Mubarak said that the Constitution has clearly specified how the authority is transferred calmly and in a way that does not subject the citizens to conflicts. He added: A vice president will be appointed when the suitable opportunity and personality become available. [passage omitted]

The president then replied to questions about the Palestinian issue. He referred to the progress that could be made during the peace negotiations over an issue that has gone on for almost 45 years during which many opportunities were missed.

Referring to the recent U.S. proposal presented to the Palestinian side, President Mubarak said: We study every proposal, deal with it, and present our view of it. We can narrow the gap and reach a common understanding in this way. He added that no war has ever decided an issue and that Egypt retrieved its national soil by war and then by negotiations and then with the International Court of Justice decision on the issue of Tabah. He added: The struggle was bitter during all these stages but we never abandoned our determination and will.

On Egyptian-Sudanese relations, President Mubarak said: I met with President al-Bashir and our talks were frank and held in a spirit of brotherhood. We agreed on a meeting between the two foreign ministers to resolve the problems between the two countries. He added: I hope for strong relations with fraternal Sudan. It is my policy that Egypt's relations with all countries should be good and based on mutual respect.

On Bosnia-Herzegovina, the president said that Egypt is supporting with all its resources this issue at the international level and through the Islamic Conference Organization and its member countries. He added: We do not have more capabilities. He also said: Egypt is participating in the peacekeeping force and the door is open for those who wish to travel there; there is nothing to prevent them from doing so. But we will not allow any incitement or any exploitation of this issue to collect funds.

Press Analyzes Relations With U.S., Shaykh Issue

'Crisis' in Ties With U.S. Viewed

NC1407135693

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 4 July publishes on pages 1 and 3 an approximately 3,500-word article by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari entitled "The United States and Egypt: Is the Issue That of a Shaykh or a Change in Policy?"

Al-Ansari begins by claiming that aside from all the media clamor regarding the stories of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, "the issue in the end requires a calm and reflective stand to deal with the original topic objectively and frankly. By original topic we mean Egyptian-American relations and whether it is true that these strong and positive relations are going through a crisis reflected in the continuous media and newspaper campaigns waged by those organs that address U.S.

public opinion". The writer maintains that the media have "greatly promoted Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's activities and ideas throughout the past months; that is, since 1991, and turned him into a chief, or a new Khomeyni."

The writer asks: "What are the reasons for this crisis? What issues does it revolve around? Could the issue be just a general misunderstanding the origin and source of which is a new administration that has come to power in the United States? Is this new administration still burdened by the huge legacy left behind by the operations of the experienced previous administration—the legacy of leading the universe? And is the youthful administration required to take over the administration of this universe and its demands by resolving the United States' internal problems, just as it is required to address and cope with the current international chaos and imbalance?"

Al-Ansari then says: "Before discussing whether there are any crises, differences, and tension, we need to decide and agree first and foremost on a number of facts." He asserts that "Egyptian-American relations have not witnessed a brighter, stronger, or more understanding and cooperative age than Mubarak's". The writer then details the reasons for his assertion by presenting a history of U.S.-Egyptian relations, starting from former Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat's time. He reviews the background of U.S. military loans to Egypt and concludes that Mubarak succeeded in getting them written off. He explains that both Egypt and the United States realized the each other's importance: "The United States knows that Egypt is the power for balance, stability, security, unity, and Arab, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, African, and Third World interaction." The writer adds: "The United States knows that the key to peace lies in Egypt." He then elaborates on Egypt's recent achievements under Mubarak: It succeeded in talks with the IMF and World Bank; it stood on the side of international legitimacy by liberating Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion; it opposed the partition of Iraq; it played a vital role in the Middle East cause by presenting its own experience with Israel. He adds: "I strongly believe that without Egypt, the Madrid Conference would not have convened."

At the end of his article, al-Ansari discusses the joint Egyptian-American march, the objectives that sometimes coincide and at other times differ. He asks: "After all this understanding and cooperation, can we spot any reasons for crisis, factors of difference, or justifications for a clash? The answer: I believe not. There are no reasons or justifications. Therefore, it is an American miscalculation based on the sick imagination of some groups which thought that those who are causing fear, killing people, destroying land, and corrupting it are able to take power. Did they think that the state's grasp was weak?"

Al-Ansari then reveals the contradiction in the U.S. stand: "On the other hand, they quickly demand that the state should be more lenient, even if it is not violent, because they know that by using extraordinary measures and violence, and ignoring the law and human rights, just as has happened with oppressive and tyrannical regimes, everything could end, whatever the price." He maintains: "The way the phenomenon is dealt with in Egypt is different. It takes into consideration social and economic situations, the reasons for frustration and desperation, which compel some youths to respond and submit to brainwashing and justify crime and murder."

The writer adds: "From the perspective of the differences in opinion regarding the size of the phenomenon of violence and the extent of public response to it, where does 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman fit? Why did the United States welcome him in March 1991? Why did it decide on 2 July 1993 to issue the decision to arrest him on charges that he has a forged entry visa?" He wonders where Egyptian-American relations stand now and where they are heading.

Al-Ansari concludes: "The United States will be committing a grave error if it believes that hampering Egypt and keeping it from development and progress are important for its universal and regional accounts, and that it should hold Egypt back until it decides its policy regarding the region and the world. This is a dangerous game that will not benefit anyone".

Change in Ties Linked With Clinton Era

NC1407112493 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Jul 93 p 3

[From the "Words" column by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad]

[Excerpts] When we try to find the truth in current Egyptian-U.S. relations and say in general that they have sustained some change, misunderstanding, lukewarmness, or similar milder or stronger terms, there are some points that we must take into consideration before delving further into this delicate topic.

The first point to make is that we are not in the information loop regarding the finer details in current relations, because we are neither Foreign Ministry nor intelligence officials, whether Egyptian or American. We know that there are hidden things and secrets that cannot be made public and so the reader should not expect us to reveal the true exchanges, contacts, and positions of the past few months. We simply read the papers, listen to the radios, watch television sometimes, and hear what people coming from the United States say, then try to use our brains to figure out the basic and objective facts related to this matter.

The second point that must be understood is that it is widely agreed that it is both illogical and unreasonable for Egypt to have started spoiling its relations with the United States. This is because the only thing in which we are partners is the Arab-Israeli issue, in which we always say that the Americans are biased toward Israel at our expense. But this is not anything new, and there has not been any dramatic change in the U.S. position on Israel to make us lose our connection with the United States, which is now saying that it is playing the role of active and influential partner in the peace process. The United States is still trying and urging the two sides to continue the negotiations, and Egypt is doing the same thing, believing it has a duty to do so, because of its Arab role and not as a result of U.S. pressure or influence. [passage omitted]

The third point is that the change in U.S.-Egyptian relations began with the Clinton era. Under Bush, we had a very good relationship with the United States. He helped us, we helped him, and we stood in one trench with the United States against the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. It was natural for us to do so because the aggression was a crime. Had the world remained silent about it and left it without a response or punishment, it would have inevitably led to a more serious aggression. So the important thing is that for our part, we did not start any hostile action. So why have relations changed?

U.S. 'Game' With Shaykh Uncovered

NC1407120493 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 4 Jul 93 p 5

["Moment of Truth" column by 'Izzat al-Sa'dani: "The American Game"]

[Text] Talk of the tale or the riddle of the disappearance of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in New York and his emergence 24 hours later and surrender to the FBI lives on in the streets of Egypt. U.S. officials announced that the shaykh was hiding inside Abu Bakr mosque in the city of Jersey and was transferred to Otisville Prison in New York.

The people on the Egyptian street laugh at this American theater, which they understand very well, since they are intelligent, smart, conniving, and even shrewder than the omnipotent American agencies, from the Central Intelligence Agency through the FBI. These two powerful institutions represent the most powerful spying and information gathering organs in the world. We, the naive Egyptians, are being asked to believe the American cowboy, who shoots one bullet from his gun and kills 10 people, blinks his right eye and 10 women swoon, and blinks his left eye and scores of beauties fall in love with him.

We will not believe the United States, which, with all its powerful equipment can detect the footsteps of an ant, penetrate walls and roofs, and use audio and video to learn everything that goes on even in underground bedrooms and offices that are fortified with reinforced concrete. They did this with Saddam Husayn, Panamanian President Noriega, Aidid, who defends the Somali people, and all those who say no to the Americans, from Tibet in the Far East to the city of Atlantis, which sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean over 5,000 years ago. We do not know why the U.S. Justice Department suddenly issued a decision to hold Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in custody, despite the shaykh's location being known and the shaykh himself being blind; he can see or do nothing.

If the omnipotent U.S. bodies knew where Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman was—they have videos of him everywhere with armed American guards all around his house and mosque—why was a decision made to hold him in custody?

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's sudden appearance after a 24-hour absence puts the answer to the funny American puzzle before us:

1. There is a dispute between the omnipotent American organs the CIA and the FBI. One party wants to arrest Shaykh 'Umar and the other party doesn't.

2. Undoubtedly, there is a large American organization with great influence, which guarded Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and hid him for 24 hours, just like a James Bond movie.

3. Doubtless, the organization that hid Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman for 24 hours is the CIA, which in turn reveals the suspect relationship between Shaykh 'Umar and the CIA.

I believe time will solve many puzzles regarding Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's role in the United States and show him to be a card the United States is playing to fool us. Thank God we have uncovered the game, which requires no great Egyptian mind to figure out.

G-7 Demands Seen To Pose 'Great Challenge' for Clinton

NC1407163893 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Jul 93 p 9

[Editorial entitled: "A World Summit"]

[Text] The leaders of the seven industrialized nations met in Tokyo amid strict security, while numerous differences emerge among these countries over economic and political issues that concern the entire world, especially the freedom of trade and support for reform in the former Soviet Union.

The most prominent issue is terrorism, which is no longer local or minor, but is rather an international phenomenon threatening everyone without exception, including the United States.

Perhaps Western newspaper reports on President Clinton's concern and efforts to win other Western leaders' support for his policy of the dual containment of Iran and Iraq indicate the importance the U.S. policy attaches to such an issue.

The difficulty is that countries such as Japan and Germany are expanding their trade with Iran and propose different means to contain Iran that are not based on the direct confrontation that the U.S. ideas suggest. France is looking toward this huge market to remedy some of its economic pains. And all other countries envisage the United States being required to work under a collective leadership, not unilaterally, and to stop its nuclear tests. Such demands constitute a great challenge to President Clinton, who was participating in his first such summit.

Islamic Group Accuses Christians of Bombings

NC1507101893 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 7 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] In a serious development and as part of an attempt to stir up sectarian sedition, the Islamic Group [al-jama'ah al- islamiyah] has accused "Christians" of carrying out the bombings that occurred in Wadi al-Nil Cafe, al-Qulali, Madinat al-Nasr, the Pyramids underpass, and Shubra [in Cairo].

In a lengthy leaflet widely distributed in Asyut, the Islamic Group spoke about what it called "the dirty role of the Christians in attempting to stir up sedition and killing Muslims."

We are reporting this for the enlightenment of those who claim that there is no sectarian sedition or attempts to stir it up.

Sudanese Authorities Release 5 Egyptian Detainees

NC1307173893 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 6 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] Khartoum, MENA—The Sudanese security authorities yesterday released five of 20 Egyptians who had been detained by the Sudanese authorities since 26 June in Khartoum without an official reason. The released are workers from the Egypt Cement Company.

The Egyptian diplomatic mission in Sudan is working for the release of the other detainees, who are employed by the Cement, al-Nasr, Export and Import, and Egyptian Product Sales companies and the Egyptian trade center in Khartoum.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC1407201893 Cairo MENA in English 1730 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—The deputy foreign minister of Vietnam arrived here this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt.

The Vietnamese official will meet tomorrow with Assistant Foreign Minister Isma'il Makhluf on developments in the Middle East, including the efforts to achieve peace in the region, as well as the situation in Asia. They [will] also discuss ways of promoting bilateral relations in the various fields.

Nigerian Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC1407202693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1804 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—Alyo Muhammad, political adviser and personal envoy of Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, arrived in Cairo from Abuja this evening for a two-day visit to Egypt.

During his stay the Nigerian envoy will deliver a message from President Babangida to President Husni Mubarak on the developments in Nigeria.

Natural Gas Discovery Found South of Marsa Matruh

NC1407114393 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Khalid Jabr]

[Text] The Khaldah Petroleum Company has made a new natural gas discovery south of the city of Marsa Matruh. Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has stated that the new discovery will produce 30 million cubic feet of natural gas plus 2,000 barrels of condensates [mutakaththifat] daily. The discovery is south of Marsa Matruh, where the Spanish Rapsol [name as transliterated] Company and the U.S. Phoenix Company are operating. Dr. al-Banbi has instructed the Petroleum Authority and the companies operating in the area to speed up construction of a new line to link the gas discovered in the area with the national gas network. Geologist Majid 'Abd-al-Halim, deputy chairman of the Petroleum Authority for exploration, has stated that the new discovery is from the "Tariq-2" well, which is 16,000 feet deep.

Libya

Envoy to Arab League Queried on Lockerbie, Ties With West

PM1507131993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 93 p 4

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, representative to the Arab League and former foreign minister, by Ashraf al-Faqiyy in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Faqiyy] Do you believe that all the attempts to resolve the Lockerbie crisis have reached an impasse?

[Al-Bishari] I do not agree with those who believe that this issue has reached an impasse, for a simple reason: It turned into a political issue the minute it was referred to the UN Security Council. We cannot say that it has reached an impasse, because conflicts that are political in nature between peoples and nations eventually find a negotiated solution acceptable to all parties.

[Al-Faqiyy] Do you expect the sanctions committee's meeting on 15 August to result in stepping up the sanctions imposed on Libya?

[Al-Bishari] Some voices are urging that the sanctions imposed on the Jamahiriyah should be increased in implementation of Security Council Resolution 748 of April 1992—the sanctions which have led to numbers of Libyans falling victim and imposed a painful reality on the Libyan people and neighboring states. These sanctions do not match the accusation they want to level at us, because we denounced the downing of the U.S. plane incident, consider it a big crime, and demand that the culprits be punished. Increasing sanctions on us in the the area of oil and its technology would cause a problem not only for Libya but the states importing Libyan oil—which is cheap, light, and close to European coasts—especially Spain, Germany, France, and Belgium.

As for oil industry technology, we in practice purchase this technology from or through the United Kingdom. And those in charge of running the oil sector in Libya are British—about 7,500 of them—and would be harmed if this sector is affected. It is early to predict that the sanctions on Libya will be stepped up. However, the possibility of this happening is not ruled out. Many things could happen during this month.

[Al-Faqiyy] How do you visualize the scenarios for a solution as the sanctions imposed on the Jamahiriyah will be assessed on 15 August?

[Al-Bishari] Those states—the United States, Britain, and France—must accept a public trial before the entire world to reveal to the truth. As for trying to suppress Libya and push it to violate its own laws and overlook its sovereignty by sending the suspects to the United States or Scotland, this is not possible.

[Al-Faqiyy] Before the courts of which states do you wish the two suspects, Al-Amin Khalifah al-Fuhaymah and 'Abd-al-Basit al-Maqrahi, to stand trial? And have you received any state's agreement to have the trial conducted on its territory?

[Al-Bishari] We accept any state in the world except Israel. The trial could be conducted in Canada, Australia, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, or Germany.

[Al-Faqiyy] Why do you not make a move through the United Nations by calling for an emergency meeting of the General Assembly to issue a recommendation to lift Security Council Resolution 478 concerning the sanctions?

[Al-Bishari] In the new international situation the General Assembly has been robbed of its ability to do things, and the Security Council, which consists of 15 states, has become the effective tool. It represents an international government controlled by some powerful states which dictate the resolutions inside the Council to match their own moods and interests. And the role of the Islamic Conference Organization, the OAU, and the Arab League has become "a cry of conscience." But in reality the resolutions are issued by the Security Council, whose working mechanism, method, and the powers controlling it need to be reconsidered, especially as the world has begun to feel that the United Nations is using two scales, and this is a fact. Imposing sanctions on Libya and hitting Iraq while ignoring what is happening in Bosnia confirms that the United Nations is using two standards. Why does the United Nation not intervene to confront ethnic cleansing operations in Bosnia and implement Security Council resolutions in this connection? The regional organizations' resolutions remain merely "a cry of conscience," and the strong continues to impose his will in a highly defective international situation.

[Al-Faqiyy] You said that you will continue to knock on the U.S. door until it opens. What about Libyan-U.S. relations now a few months have elapsed since President Bill Clinton took office?

[Al-Bishari] The United States is an important state in this world, and we can only seek to establish the best of relations with it in the framework of respect and mutual interests. We had long experience in this context until the early eighties, when former President Ronald Reagan's administration took office and froze relations with Libya. The two Republican administrations of (Ronald) Reagan and (George) Bush were characterized by using the logic of force in resolving international disputes. Fortunately, President Clinton has arrived amid different conditions. The Cold War ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the U.S. President is from a generation which has not participated in any wars, whether World War II or the Vietnam War, in which he refused to participate because of his belief that war achieves no solution. He is an intellectual young man whose vision differs from that of the Republican administration. He belongs to the Democratic Party, which includes minorities, including the blacks, Hispanics, Arabs, and Jews, and sympathizes with the causes of small peoples. We saw in the days of President Jimmy Carter how there were no bloody conflicts between the United States and other states. The same happened in the days of President John Kennedy, who managed to secure a basis of understanding with the late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. He also managed to reach a solution with the Soviet Union on the Cuban missile crisis, which nearly ignited a third world war in the sixties.

[Al-Faqiyy] Do you believe that the Jamahiriyah's encouragement for U.S., British, and French investments could contribute to resolving its crisis with the West?

[Al-Bishari] The problem with the three Western states is political. It must first be subjected to political logic. The other factors will be helping factors.

[Al-Faqiyy] How would you assess relations with Saudi Arabia and the Libyan delegation's visit to the occupied territories?

[Al-Bishari] Relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are cordial and brotherly. We have every appreciation for Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. There is no reason for any disagreement with fraternal Saudi Arabia.

With regard to the Libyan pilgrims who visited the holy places in the occupied territories, the issue should not be given any political dimension. This is because the Libyan state and Libyan officials are not party to it. The Libyan leadership is not party to it. They are a group of people who went there at their own responsibility. Media reports that the delegation contacted Colonel (Mu'ammar) al-Qadhdhafi by telephone during the visit to occupied Jerusalem are fabricated.

[Al-Faqiyy] Twelve Arab states have agreed to the Arab reconciliation initiative. Do you believe that the atmosphere is suitable at present for initiating the reconciliation process?

[Al-Bishari] I would like first to praise the initiative of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the sincere Arab man who submitted his initiative to leaders of the Arab states to restore Arab cohesion under a very complex situation. What happened on 2 August 1990 is not easy. However, if we look at our old history, we will find similar precedents which should be taken into account to heal the wounds and work to eliminate the negative effects of what happened, especially as the present international situation prompts us to sit together, reconcile, and restore to Arab solidarity its true image.

The major states around us are trying to create problems for us. They are seeking to create problems for Egypt, the largest Arab state and the pioneer and leader in the region, by terrorist operations carried out on its territory. They want to obstruct its role in the region.

[Al-Faqiyy] You pointed out that terrorism is a phenomenon exported to the Arab states. How do you view this in the light of the United States' hosting of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman?

[Al-Bishari] Arab societies are tolerant societies by nature. And the Islamic religion is a tolerant religion. But at the beginning of the eighties the conflict broke out in Afghanistan. It witnessed intervention from U.S. intelligence to train and back the Afghans. After the war was over the Afghan mujahidin [those who fought alongside the Afghan mojahedin] returned to their countries to carry out operations which have nothing to do with Islam. I believe that the elements carrying out these terrorist operations in Arab states are hirelings and mercenaries seeking to achieve special aims to serve others. And I believe that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is one of those who are close to U.S. intelligence ... I do not know the nature of the relationship at present. Perhaps the relationship has been severed, circumstances have changed, or his role has ended.

'Massacre' by Foreign Forces in Somalia Condemned

LD1407182993 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Jul (JANA)—The JANA international affairs editor has condemned the massacre perpetrated by foreign forces occupying Somalia under the guise of the United Nations. It is a massacre that has claimed hundreds of civilian Somali victims, including children, women, and the elderly, as well as foreign journalists, after U.S. planes launched a series of indiscriminate air raids on many locations in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, which made Somali citizens the target for their bombs and missiles in an operation that can at best be described as further violation of the sanctity and sovereignty of that country and of human rights there. This is with the participation of the United Nations, on which small peoples have been pinning their hopes for the protection of their rights, the settlement of disputes in the world by peaceful means without intervention in the internal affairs of states, and the safeguarding of security and stability in the world.

The editor said that that the so-called relief supplies for the Somali people, which were a cover for the entry of foreign forces and the United Nations into Somalia, soon turned into bombs, missiles, and rockets fired at the homes, breasts, and heads of Somalis without exception, so as to continue the annihilation of the Somali people who are still paying the price for crimes committed by a handful of agents struggling for power. These agents, through their partisan and tribal struggle for power, have been killing the sons of their people, destroying their land and opening their country to violations by foreign occupation and the return of colonialism. When their roles as temporary hired agents ended, they became targets to be hunted down by the forces that had mobilized them and that are now pursuing them and destroying a whole country under the pretext of searching for them.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Role of International Forces in Somalia

EA1407213093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During his meeting with press and media leaders today, the chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers touched on the Somali situation. He said: What the Somali people are facing in the way of indiscriminate air strikes confirms a distortion of the role of the international forces there. He reiterated Sudan's support for what was declared by the recent African summit in Cairo on the subject of Somalia, stressing that the Somalis were in the right and had to be given the opportunity to determine their own affairs. He stressed the need for a review of the UN resolution on Somalia.

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir called on the Islamic states to do their duty to the Muslim people in Bosnia and to take every possible step to rescue them.

Minister Comments on Relations With Egypt, Somalia

EA1407220293 Khartoum SUNA in English 1642 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Bonn, 14 Jul (SUNA)—The federal minister at the Federal Government Chamber, Dr 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad has emphasized that relations between Sudan and Egypt are eternal. Dr. al-Hajj in a press statement held on Tuesday [13 July] in Bonn, Germany, described the meeting at the OAU summit of General al-Bashir and Husni Mubarak as a positive one and one which had discussed frankly a number of issues which concerned the two countries. Dr. al-Hajj said that the meetings between officials in Egypt and Sudan are continuing and the foreign ministers of the two countries will meet in the current July. Dr. al-Hajj described the relations between Sudan and Arab countries as a good, pointing to that Egypt consider as a one of very important countries to Sudan [sentence as received].

He said that the southern question is an inherited problem, and not one created by the current government, considering Garang as an obstacle hindering reaching an agreement in the Abuja-2 talks. Dr. al-Hajj called on the world press to visit Sudan and to get acquainted with the situation and to assure about what was rumored about the violation of human rights in Sudan. He said that the calling of establishing safe havens in southern Sudan is flagrant.

Dr. al-Hajj has described the existence of the American forces in Somalia as an invasive [as received] troops aiming to eliminate Muslim Somali peoples.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. al-Hajj is currently visiting Germany.

Official on Possible 'Abd-al-Rahman Asylum Request

PM1407182593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 93 p 1

[Ahmad 'Uthman Jibril: "Sudan Willing To Consider al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah Leader's Application for Asylum"]

[Text] Khartoum—Asked whether the Sudanese Government intends to allow al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is at present in the United States, to obtain political asylum in Sudan, Mahdi Ibrahim, director of the Political Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, said that 'Abd-al-Rahman "so far has not approached the Sudanese Government seeking political asylum, and what has been reported by world news agencies about this issue is absolutely baseless." He pointed out that "Shaykh 'Umar himself told news agencies that he does not want political asylum in Sudan."

However, the director of the Political Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry pointed out that "if Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman approaches the Sudanese Government officially seeking political asylum, Sudan as a sovereign state will consider the shaykh's application in accordance with its principles, policies, and independent decisionmaking."

Iranian Envoy Arrives 13 Jul for Official Visit

EA1407120393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Mr. 'Ali Jannati, secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Guidance in the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived here today on an official visit to the country. His excellency conveyed the congratulations of the Iranian people and government on the fourth anniversary of the revolution. Following his arrival, Mr. 'Ali Jannati, told the press that the aim of his visit was to promote and strengthen cultural and informational exchanges between Sudan and Iran in the interests of the two peoples. He added that his delegation would hold meetings with a number of officials and that it also intended making familiarization visits to some relevant organizations. [passage omitted]

Comments on U.S. Presence in Somalia

LD1407194593 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, July 14, IRNA—Deputy Minister of the Islamic Guidance and Culture in charge of International Affairs 'Ali Jannati here Wednesday [14 July] told Sudan's Education [as received] Minister Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman that Iran and Sudan are targets of hostile foreign propaganda which warrants their closer collaboration and resistance.

The Iranian official said the presence in Somalia of the United States under the umbrella of the United Nations troops is a threat against Sudan.

The Sudanese minister appreciated the feelings of the visiting Iranian official and proposed that the two countries enter into agreements for broadening their cooperation.

He said Sudan should benefit from the experience of Iran in all areas rather than simply learn the ideas and the ideals to which the Islamic Republic adheres.

The Sudanese minister also expressed pleasure with the opening of an office in Khartoum of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA).

Culture Minister on Talks

EA1507102393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Brigadier Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of culture and information, spoke in his office today to members of an Iranian delegation currently visiting the country. The delegation is led by Mr. 'Ali Jannati, undersecretary of the Iranian Ministry of Culture. They discussed ways to activate the cooperation agreement in the fields of culture and information that was recently signed by Sudan and Iran.

The Iranian delegation also met Mr. Amin Hasan 'Umar, general secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information. During the meeting, agreement was reached on drawing up a program for implementing the agreement signed by the two countries in the fields of culture and information.

Iraqi Ambassador on Oil Blockade, U.S.

EA1407214093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 14 Jul 93

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Samad Hamad 'Ali, the ambassador of the Iraqi Republic to Sudan, has condemned the iniquitous blockade imposed on his country, drawing attention to the sufferings of the Iraqi people arising from it. He said this during a press conference at the Iraqi Embassy in Khartoum today on the occasion of his country's celebration of its July revolution anniversary. He said the Iraqi people increased their support for their leaders and government every time the blockade against their country was made more onerous. His excellency the ambassador then talked about the negotiations on the sales of Iraqi oil, revealing in this respect that there had been a meeting in Geneva between Iraqi officials and the UN secretary general to discuss this issue. He said the result of the meeting had been positive.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Samad Hamad stressed that the recent American aggression against his country had been aimed at splitting the unity of Iraq, which was one of the forces of the Arab and Islamic nation.

His excellency the ambassador praised Sudan's role in bringing about Arab unity and solidarity.

Libyan Official Visits To Discuss Relations

EA1407115593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] On 12 July at his office at the General Command, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, reviewed with Dr. Faruq al-Bushra, secretary general of the integration authority between Sudan and Libya, the progress of relations within the framework of integration between the two countries.

Dr. al-Bushra said that the meeting dealt with resolutions of the higher ministerial authority of the two countries held recently in the Jamahiriyah. He pointed out that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir approved the resolutions, particularly in the area of food security, the activation of trade between the two countries through the formation of a joint chamber of commerce, and the opening of commercial offices in Tripoli and Khartoum.

He said that the meeting also dealt with the implementation of projects approved by the authority, including reactivating the Arab Sudanese-Libyan company for development and investment, enabling it to attract investors from both countries. Dr. Faruq al-Bushra said that a Libyan delegation will arrive soon in Sudan to finalize various steps to give an impetus to investment in the two fraternal countries.

Minister Reports Rebels Surrendering

EA1407190793 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, minister of state for defense, has announced that between 20 and 30 rebels, including commanders and officers, are continuing to surrender, with all their arms and equipment, every week to the Armed Forces in the operational areas. This phenomenon was indicative of the government's seriousness about achieving peace and the success of its repeated general amnesty declarations and calls to return to the homeland, he said. Quoted by AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, the minister accused the rebel movement of persistently violating the cease-fire in a number of areas in the south, looting relief convoys, and attacking military administrative convoys engaged in supplying outlying areas. Maj. Gen. 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan praised the People's Defense Forces for helping the armed forces contain the rebel gangs in the south, southern Kurdufan, and Darfur over the past few years, which had facilitated the winning of great victories. It is worth noting that large numbers of rebels have surrendered to the Armed Forces, having despaired of continuing to wage war and escaping from the hellfire of the rebellion in response to the revolution's appeal to return to the homeland to engage in construction.

Transitional Assembly Approves Press Act

EA1407094093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The Transitional National Assembly, under the chairmanship of Sayyid Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah approved a bill on the Press and Publications Act for 1993 at the second moving stage. The assembly heard a report on the bill presented by the Affairs Mobilization and Information Committee, Brigadier Hasan Hamadayn. The report reviewed the crisis of the Sudanese press as part of the political crisis in the country since independence, saying that the new act comes in response to the requirements of the present stage. The act guarantees the freedom of the press and discusses its national, social, and ethical responsibilities.

Meanwhile, the minister of culture and information, Brigadier Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, reviewed the basic features of the act, stressing that the law is considered as an important step to guarantee the freedom and independence of the press as the fourth authority in the state.

The assembly also ratified the executive program of cooperation between the Sudan and Yemen in the fields of education and scientific research. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Tribal Leaders Postpone 15 Jul Meeting

LD1407225493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The meeting of the Western Sahara tribal leaders scheduled to be held tomorrow [15 July] in the Saharan city of Laayoune has been postponed for at least 24 hours. The postponement came at the request of the Polisario, to enable its representatives to arrive at the meeting's venue.

The Laayoune meeting was called by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali with the aim of searching for a compromise in the dispute between the two parties to the conflict, Morocco and the Polisario Front, on determining the identity of those who will take part in the referendum on self-determination. It is known that the Polisario insists on the definition in UN Security Council Resolution 690—the Spanish 1974 census that puts the number of Saharan voters at 74,000 persons. Morocco is asking for another 120,000 to be added on the pretext that they are Saharan citizens who fled Spanish colonialism to Morocco.

* GCC Exchange of Ambassadors 'Almost Complete'

93P50228A London AL—SHARQ AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jul 93 p 4

[Report by Ya'qub al-Zuhayr]

[Text] Doha—Ambassador Sa'id Muhammad Sultan al-Za'abi arrives in Doha tomorrow to take up the duties of his post as the first ambassador of the state of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in Doha; Qatar appointed Ambassador 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Qamman in January to be its first ambassador in Abu Dhabi.

The UAE opened its embassy in Doha in August of last year, but representation has been at the level of charge d'affaires, and this is the post at which Hasan Salim al-Khayyal has been working on an acting basis all this time. Doha opened its first consulate in Dubai in the eighties.

Along with the arrival of al-Za'abi to Doha, Ambassador Sa'id Ahmad al-Zahiri will arrive in Manama to be the first UAE ambassador to Bahrain. Ambassador 'Isa Muhammad al-Jami' was chosen in November to represent it in Abu Dhabi.

With the arrival of al-Za'abi to Doha and al-Zahiri to Manama, the exchange of ambassadors among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries is almost complete, with the exception of Qatar and Bahrain. It might be mentioned that the two countries have not as yet exchanged ambassadors and there is no diplomatic mission for either of them in the other.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Backs Law on Trying Ministers

PM1407153493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Nasir al-Mutayri and Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahman: "Sabah al-Ahmad: I Support Law on Trying Ministers in Kuwait"]

[Text] Kuwait—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed his support of the law on trying ministers in Kuwait. In a statement to reporters yesterday he said that "any minister who violates the honor of his profession does not deserve to be a minister, hence he must be punished."

Shaykh Sabah stressed that the government has never opposed any National Assembly proposal it believes serves the homeland and citizens. He pointed to "negotiations currently being conducted between the two sides to draw up the final recommendations as regards the case of Kuwaiti investments abroad and the losses they have suffered." He stressed that "after the completion and announcement of these recommendations the government will implement them without any hesitation."

In a reference to Kuwait's relations with the so-called "hostile states," Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that "there is no permanent friendship or permanent enmity in politics." He added that he hopes that "the anxiety between us and others will disappear and that they will realize they did wrong against us."

Speaking about border demarcation between Kuwait and Iraq, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that "Kuwait has sent a number of envoys to 120 states to explain the recent Security Council election in this connection." He emphasized that "it has nothing to do with partitioning territories, but, rather, implementation of an agreement signed between Iraq and Kuwait long ago."

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah has expressed his utmost indignation at the attack the deputies launched on him at the last National Assembly session. He said: "No cabinet minister has ever experienced the attacks and criticisms aimed at me." He pointed out that more than 20 of the 38 National Assembly sessions were devoted to level various accusations at the Interior Ministry and the minister personally.

The interior minister said in the National Assembly session held yesterday that "no interior minister in the world can pledge to stop crime." He emphasized that his task "is to limit these crimes and safeguard security as much as possible." He acknowledged the existence of negative practices by some employees. However, he said that this does not mean that "negative practices exist throughout the ministry as a whole."

* Deputies Ask Interior Minister To Resign

93P50230A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Nasir al-Mutayri]

[Text] Kuwait—After the confrontation with the Kuwaiti defense minister, Shaykh 'Ali Salim al-Sabah, faced violent attacks by members of the National Assembly, to the extent of their asking to interview him, calling on him to resign, or expressing a lack of confidence in him.

This came during a National Assembly debate yesterday on the government response to the proposals which the Assembly made in the secret session which was held on the security probem.

Deputy Shari' al-'Ajami affirmed that Kuwait has witnessed a number of security incidents giving the Assembly the right to interview the interior minister. He said, "If Shaykh Ahmad al-Hammud is not able to do his job effectively, he should tender his resignation, or else the National Assembly will be forced to use its constitutional powers."

Deputy Ahmad al-Khatib stated that there is no surveillance of the Kuwaiti northern borders, which he described as "trespassed upon." He explained that the interior minister's interests have come to be restricted to recruiting a party for the government while simple matters pile up, so that the deputies [have to] clear them up at the expense of their positions in the National Assembly.

Deputy Khalid al-'Uduwah said that the Interior Ministry suffers from centralism, in that all of the power is connected with what the minister alone does, pointing out that the interior minister haggles with the deputies about getting things done.

Deputy 'Ayid 'Allush vehemently blamed the ministry leadership for bringing "nothing to their positions but personal considerations," and demanded that the minister purge the Ministry of them."

Deputy Talal al-'Ayyar affirmed the necessity of a comprehensive and well-considered comprehensive security strategy. He said that the stability of the security situation is not just connected with the Interior Ministry, but that the Information Ministry, the Education Ministry and other agencies in the country bear part of the security responsibility. He said that the National Assembly should take on its own responsibilities to remedy the security shortcomings through constructive criticism, without [the deputies] trying to outdo each other.

In addition, Deputy 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Adasani criticized the Interior Ministry's use of a large number of police "without specifications as to citizenship" and said that "it is a disgrace to Kuwait that there are in the northern border station "Bidun" [term referring to individuals without citizenship] police who are not citizens."

Deputy 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Samad opposed this, saying that among the "Bidun" were those who had been martyred out of loyalty to Kuwait. He demanded that they be treated justly and that citizenship be given those who deserve it, according to public conditions and regulations.

Deputy Mubarak al-Duwaylah attributed the reason for the security shortcomings in Kuwait to there not being a sufficient penal deterrent. He pled that it is necessary to apply the death penalty against criminals committing various crimes instead of postponing it indefinitely without carrying it out.

The National Assembly voted to rescind Ordinance No. 4 of 1991 on the Supreme Security Committee issued during the occupation. In the vote, 33 deputies voted for and 17 voted against.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives, Decorates General Powell

LD1407145593 Riyadh SPA in English 1234 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Jeddah, July 14, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received here yesterday General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, King Fahd conferred on Gen. Powell, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Medal of the Excellent Grade.

The meeting was attended by Prince Bandar Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi ambassador to U.S., Gen. Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff and U.S. Charge d'Affaires David Welch. [Riyadh SPA in English at 1237 GMT on 14 July reports that Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy premier and minister of defense and aviation, received Gen. Powell and accompanying delegation]

Government To Build Bosnian Refugee Camps in Albania

LD1407202393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, told SPA today that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, was deeply touched by the suffering of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina who previously sought refuge in Croatia but recently faced bad conditions as a result of leaving there.

Therefore, the king, may God preserve him, gave orders to help the Bosnian authorities set up residential camps for them elsewhere. As a result of the contacts concluded between the Bosnian government and the Albanian Government, it has been decided that the Kingdom is to set up camps for those refugees in Albania, which is close to Bosnia and whose community resembles that of the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina, being Muslim.

A team of Saudi engineers has been sent to Albania, where they met with two similar technical teams from the Bosnian government and the Albanian government. A suitable site was chosen for setting up this camp of prefabricated houses, which will be done at the necessary speed. The center will include residential buildings, in addition to services such as schools, mosques, and hospitals. The Saudi technical team will continue to supervise the completion of work in the shortest time, God willing.

Deputy Chairman of Consultative Council Appointed

LD1507081093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A graceful decree has been issued, the text of which follows:

Dr. 'Abdullah Bin 'Umar Bin Nasif has been appointed deputy chairman of the Consultative [Shura] Council with the rank of minister. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

* Government Demarcates Territorial Waters

93P50232A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Tajj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] yesterday passed a new law to mark its territorial waters, in a step that observers described as opening the file of maritime borders in the Gulf and especially with Iran, which two months ago passed a law to demarcate its territorial waters saying that they included the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

Even though the territorial waters, which have been marked at 12 nautical miles, do not conflict with the maritime territorial borders of neighboring states, there are dozens of islands scattered in the Gulf water and dozens of offshore wells which form technical problems in demarcating the maritime waters for these islands and oil fields which need to be resolved with the agreement of the neighboring countries.

UAE sources say that they do not expect political reactions to these technical problems, because the question of demarcating territorial waters and the way to calculate it are regulated by the international treaty on the law of the sea, which was signed in 1992 and contains detailed passages on the method of "settling a dispute over the maritime borders of countries by considering the midline the final maritime border berween the countires concerned in this dispute."

The UAE sources add that the importance of the new law is, first of all a defensive one, in that it will stop encroachment on UAE territorial waters by any other side on the pretext that the UAE had not demarcated its territorial waters. Also, the new law strengthens the capability of the coast guard agencies to protect the UAE's coasts from foreign infiltration and smuggling, in that the law specifies a zone adjacent to the territorial waters with 24 nautical mile limits in which the state may practice some of the prerogatives of sovereignty, such as applying the procedures of immigration, passport control, and customs laws.

The new law also has an economic importance, in that the UAE sources expect that it will stop the encroachment of Japanese fishing boats and those of other countries on the territorial waters after fishing rights in this zone have been reserved to citizens and [other] fishing is prohibited in an economic zone extending to a distance of 200 nautical miles, except by authority of special licenses from the UAE.

Asked if issuance of the new law would increase the complexity of the problem with the three islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb, the UAE sources say that the problem of these islands is connected with the subject of sovereignty. The territorial waters of these islands enter into the subject of sovereignty, so settling this matter means settling any problems associated with the territorial waters, in that the islands' territorial waters are calculated according to those of the country—i.e., 12 nautical miles around them and, if there is a conflict, the midline between them and neighboring countries' territorial waters. The UAE sources find no connection between Iran's issuance of a law which delineated its maritime territorial waters about two months ago and the new law in the UAE. They said that the law demarcating the maritime watrers of the country is a practical step in agreement with the treaty on the international law of the sea for 1982, which 56 countries have so far ratified and which needs 60 countries' ratification to become legally valid. The UAE has not yet ratified the treaty but is expected to take this step after the new law is in force.

Minister Halts UN Oil Talks, Awaits 'Fresh Instructions'

NC1507101693 Paris AFP in English 0143 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, July 14 (AFP)—Iraqi negotiators suspended talks with the United Nations Wednesday [14 July] on allowing Iraq to sell 1.6 billion dollars worth of oil in order to allow for consultations with Baghdad.

"We have reached a stage of the negotiating process where some questions arose in relation to which I think that I need fresh instructions from my government," said Iraqi negotiator Deputy Foreign Minster Riyad al-Qaysi.

He stressed that the "very short" halt in talks was temporary.

Ahmad Fawzi, a spokesman for U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, confirmed the talks on allowing Iraq to export up to 1.6 billion dollars worth of crude oil over six months had been suspended.

The oil receipts would be used principally to pay for food and medicine for Iraq, which has been under a U.N. embargo since it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Fawzi said the Iraqi delegation would return to Baghdad, but al-Qaysi would stay in New York.

He would not comment on reports that the United Nations and Baghdad were on the brink of an agreement.

Diplomats said the talks had reached a critical point and that both sides had made concessions. Al-Qaysi said the talks had been marked by "sincere cooperation and professionalism."

"I should like to emphasize that the spirit has not changed," he said.

The development came on the eve of a crucial visit by U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus who travels to Baghdad on Thursday on a mission to convince Iraq to accept long-term monitoring of its weapons programmes.

UN's Ekeus Arrives in Baghdad, 'Hopeful' of Results

NC1507133293 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By Maher Chmaytelli]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, July 15 (AFP)—U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said here Thursday [15 July] he was "hopeful" he could resolve a dispute between President Saddam Husayn and the United Nations over monitoring of missile sites.

Ekeus, whose plane arrived in a sandstorm from Bahrain, is on a mission to avert possible U.S.-led strikes against Iraq.

He was to meet Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf later in the day for talks which will be dominated by the vexed question of long-term U.N. monitoring of Iraq's weapons programme.

"I hope we will have the possibility to breach the differences" between the two sides, said Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq under Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

"We will try to address some more important issues this time," he said.

He hoped his visit would "clarify some points which have been creating problems."

The U.N. Security Council has warned Iraq of "serious" consequences if it persists in its refusal to allow monitoring of two missile test sites 60 kilometres (40 miles) south of here.

Ekeus has accused Saddam's government of "blocking dialogue" by refusing to allow monitoring of the sites.

Weapons inspectors have been prevented from installing surveillance cameras or sealing equipment, and the United States has warned it is ready to attack if Iraq does not back down.

The Iraqi government says it will not accept long-term monitoring of its missile sites until U.N. trade sanctions—imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait—are lifted.

It argues that it has met the conditions of a U.N. Gulf war ceasefire resolution ordering the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction.

The defence ministry daily Al-Qadisiyah said Thursday that the Ekeus mission should "defuse" the latest confrontation by allowing discussion on monitoring.

It said Ekeus would have Iraq's "full cooperation," but that depended on him showing understanding for "Iraq's fair and reasonable demand—the lifting of the embargo first then a study of long-term monitoring." [passage omitted]

Saddam is to make a "historic" television and radio address to "Iraqis, the Arab nation and the World" on Saturday to mark the 25th anniversary of his ruling Ba'th party's rise to power, the Iraqi news agency reported.

Major festivities were planned to mark the occasion.

The Iraqi Ba'th party came to power on July 17, 1968 under former president Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr who was replaced by Saddam Husayn in 1979.

Russian Statement on UN Cameras 'Crisis' Criticized

JN1507093093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has criticized the Russian Foreign Ministry's statement on the crisis fabricated by the 60th inspection team. The paper says that the statement harms Russia more than it does Iraq. The newspaper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed that Russia plays the role of agent and false witness in the American court. This, the paper adds, will contribute to Russia's absence, starvation, and humiliation.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Russian Foreign Ministry statement said what the UN Security Council did not say. The statement, in fact, repeated what American quarters said and what the Western media propogated on a large scale.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: America does not want to see a stable, developed, and strong Russia that has a role and power and which enjoys sufficiency but wants the contrary. Most of the Russians are now aware of this.

Daily Says Fulfilling Commitments UN's 'Only Option'

JN1507090093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the United Nation's only option is to fulfill its commitments, lift the blockade, and recognize Iraq's rights. In an article entitled "The Impasse of Aggression," AL-THAWRAH, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The United Nations cannot ignore the fact that it has used all excuses and pretexts. Neither can it ignore the fact that its only option—in the face of the great Iraqi patience and compliance with Resolution 687—is to fulfill its commitments.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The United States still counts on using the Security Council and the Special Commission as tools to carry out a new aggression against Iraq to compensate for its failure in the second aggression [against Baghdad]. The paper adds: The crisis created by the 60th inspection team is a clear fabrication and lacks logic and legitimacy, particularly since the pretext presented by the Special Commission is erroneous, weak, and can be refuted by the strong, principled, and legal Iraqi logic.

The paper notes the clear fumbling in the hostile U.S. steps against Iraq in its search for excuses and pretexts to conceal its aggressive attempts and desire to continue the blockade.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Iraq is approaching its final and decisive victory now that the most savage aggression has arrived at an inescapable impasse.

Ministers, Assembly Speaker Cable Saddam on Anniversary

JN1407195393

[Editorial Report] During its major newscasts on 14 July, Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic carried cables from senior Iraqi officials to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, congratulating him on the 25th anniversary of the 17-30 July 1968 revolution bringing the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party into power.

In its scheduled 1030 GMT newcast, Baghdad radio carried a three-minute "text" of a cable of congratulations sent to President Saddam Husayn on the occasion from 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of defense.

The defense minister's cable begins with Koranic verses. The cable extends congratulations to Saddam Husayn on the occasion. The defense minister adds: "Our giant revolution, thanks to your faithful and courageous leadership and to honorable Iraqis, has defied the most vicious U.S.-led international colonialist drive against Iraq." The defense minister condemns the continued economic embargo imposed on Iraq, saying it is aimed at undermining the accomplishments of the revolution and the firm will of the Iraqi people.

In his cable, the defense minister goes on to say: "Mr. Leader President: In my name and on behalf of the Iraqi zealots working within the ranks of our valiant army, we pledge to remain honest and cutting swords in your right hand to defend our great revolution and its cherished objectives of building a new Iraqi individual and effecting a sweeping renaissance. Similarly, we pledge to continue instruction and training, utilizing all the resources and means available to us, in order to reinforce the combat capability of this great army so it may always remain capable of defending our chaste national soil. We are determined to do so in the face of all forms of aggression. We will continue the march of jihad, regardless of the sacrifices entailed."

In its scheduled 1400 GMT newscast, Baghdad radio carried an approximately four-minute "text" of a cable of congratulations to President Saddam Husayn from Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan on the 25th anniversary of the "glorious 17-30 July revolution".

In his cable, Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan congratulates Saddam on the occasion and wishes him continued good health. He prays to God to enable Saddam to lead "the victorious jihad march, which will be crowned with certain victory, when the dearest aspirations of our people and nation, who hold you [Saddam] in high esteem, will be realized."

The interior minister glorifies Saddam Husayn, saying he has become "the symbol of pride and dignity" for Iraqis and Arabs.

The interior minister lavishes praise on the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the struggle it has waged to achieve the Arab nation's noble objectives.

The interior minister goes on to say: "We have made a pledge to you. We will continue to honor that pledge. We will continue to safeguard the security and safety of the people and the homeland. We will keep the trust, perform our duties, and carry out the mission of the great Ba'th Party."

During its regular 1600 GMT newscast, Baghdad radio carried an approximately six-minute "text" of a cable of congratulations to President Saddam Husayn from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih on the same occasion.

The cable extends good wishes to Saddam Husayn on the occasion. The cable lavishes praise on the 17-30 July revolution, which, the speaker says, corrected the course charted by the 14 July 1958 revolution. He maintains that the 17-30 July revolution helped consolidate national unity in Iraq. He condemns the economic embargo imposed on Iraq. He also commends the patience and perseverance of the Iraqi people.

The National Assembly speaker also condemns U.S. missile attacks on residential areas in Iraq.

Cuban Official Notes Similarities Between Countries

JN1507130593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0758 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)—A prominent Cuban politician has described President Saddam Husayn as a great personality who was able, through his wisdom, to preserve a united and strong Iraq despite all partition attempts, aggressions, and the blockade. Professor Cambras Alvarez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, also spoke about the similarities between President Saddam Husayn and Cuban President Fidel Catro. He said: Both leaders endeavor to strengthen the sovereignty and independence of their nations.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today, the Cuban politician stressed that the Cuban Government and people support Iraq against all forms of tyranny and aggression practiced by the United States and its allies.

The Cuban politician said: The point on which both our countries converge is the fact that both countries are free and independent, that we work for the interest of our people, and that we reject imperialist tyranny. He added that both, Iraq and Cuba, are symbols and examples to be followed by Latin America, the Arab nation, and all nations seeking freedom, independence, and justice. He also expressed his sympathy with the Iraqi people and with their continuous struggle to lift the unjust economic blockade that has resulted in a shortage of food, medicine, and medical supplies.

Paper Attacks Saudis for Decorating General Powell

JN1507121193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has strongly attacked the Saudi regime, describing it as a conspiratorial regime which threatens the Arab nation's security and future. This was stated in today's article on the bestowal of the so-called King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Medal on the chairman of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff.

AL-'IRAQ says: Yesterday, those traitors desecrated the holy lands when they called in more than 800,000 soldiers from America and its allies to deploy them in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] in order to encroach on Iraq's right and its people. Today, the Saudi regime receives Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, with every hospitality, and the traitor of the two holy mosques confers on him King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Medal of the Excellent Grade in appreciation of his role and great services in killing Iraq's children and women.

Concluding, AL-'IRAQ says: The Saudi regime wants to reiterate that Islam, which it serves according to its own concept, means killing and sinning. That regime believes that those who carry out such acts should be rewarded and that Colin Powell deserves such a reward.

Qatari Criticism of 'Malicious' Kuwaiti Press Cited

JN1207111693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Jul 93

[Text] Doha, 12 Jul (INA)—Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hasan Al Thani, president of the al-Wakrah Sports Club, has lashed out at the despicable attitude of the press of the al-Sabah family toward the club's plan to establish solid sports relations with Iraq's youth and athletes.

In an interview with Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH, Shaykh Khalifah criticized the malicious attack by the press trumpets against the al-Wakrah Club's decision to sign contracts with Iraqi international players and to resume sports meetings between the two brotherly countries.

He added: We do not reply to stupid people. We were always the first to open all doors that lead to Arab solidarity. We do not know what made the Kuwaiti sport bats [as received] launch this fabricated attack.

Shaykh Khalifah went on: The Kuwaiti press tried in vain to play the role of heroes on paper. They lack wisdom and reason and their conduct conflicts with the concepts of Arab brotherhood.

He stressed: The fabricated attack will never affect my serious desire to visit Iraq. I wish those who claim to be advocates of nationalism in Kuwait would remember Iraq's stand toward Egypt and its efforts to return its youth and athletes to the Arab ranks.

Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani added: We will not go back on our stand. There is no resolution banning contracts with any player. Iraqis have proven they have good experience in various fields of development, especially in the Gulf states.

Those who are today against Iraq are the same who called for keeping Egyptian youth outside Arab ranks in the past, he said.

Shaykh Khalifah added: We will not heed the voices of the bats which come out at night. We work in daylight and our objectives are clear.

Arab League Delegate, OAU Official Confer in Cairo

JN1407194193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (INA)—Iraq has informed the OAU of the latest developments in an imperialist-Zionist scenario to mount a fresh act of aggression on the Iraqi people.

Iraq's permanent Arab League delegate Nabil Najm outlined to OAU representative Raymond Unsi Saya [name as received] the Iraqi position on the fuss surrounding Iraqi missiles and the crisis contrived by some UN Security Council members and the UN Special Commission to create a pretext for launching a new aggression on Iraq.

Mr. Najm emphasized that Iraq has observed the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 687, as testified by heads of inspection teams, including Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission.

The African delegate condemned the so-called new world order and U.S. aggression in Iraq and Somalia as well as Washington's crusade to undermine independent nations.

He applauded Iraq's determined stand against American hegemony, calling it a key Third World nation that has stood by and aided African liberation movements, underlining its nationalist and pan-Arab character.

Mr. Raymond Saya urged the United Nations and the Security Council to engage Iraq in a comprehensive and quiet dialogue and refrain from the use of force.

Negotiations Under Way for Satellite TV Channel

NC1007142793 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 10 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 10 (AFP)—Iraq has started negotiations with several parties to launch a satellite television channel to push its message abroad and break its international isolation, a senior official said Saturday [10 July].

Iraq's state-run television is leading the negotiations and could begin broadcasting on a satellite channel at the end of 1993, under-secretary of state at the information ministry Nuri Najm al-Marsumi told AFP.

"A satellite channel will be a response to attempts by our enemies to prevent Iraq from being heard and seen abroad," Marsumi said.

Iraqi television was preparing political, cultural and artistic programmes in Arabic, French and English to be broadcast round the clock, he added.

But Marsumi did not identify the firms which he said Iraq had contacted about launching a satellite television channel.

Faysal Yassari, who is in charge of the project, told AFP that Iraq had the necessary means to carry out the initiative.

Iraq has been slapped with international sanctions since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

SAIRI Head Warns of 'Catastrophe' in South

LD1507083793 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir Hakim warned against a catastrophe which threatened people in southern Iraq.

The warning came in a letter to the U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the Security Council.

According to the letter, the Iraqi regime has launched on a series of measures including draining of the Southern Marshlands in order to massacre those living there.

It stressed that hundreds of thousands of people have been deprived of living on over 11,000 sq. kms of marshlands. Some 2,000 residents of the region have entered the Iran-Iraq border areas of Majnun islands and Um Na'aj marshland during the past two weeks and need urgent relief aid. Hundreds of other families are leaving the marshlands for Iran by passing through mine fields in the area, it said.

Ayatollah Hakim called on Butrus-Ghali to prevent the Iraqi regime from draining the marshlands and urge the humanitarian organisations to take immediate measures for sending medical and foodstuff aid to the refugees.

He also called for the inspection of the surrounded areas in the marshlands by a fact-finding team and for the implementation of Resolution 688 which prevents the Iraqi regime from suppressing people in southern and northern Iraq. He also called for the settlement of relief headquarters under the supervision of the United Nations in southern Iraq.

Military Commander Reportedly Captured, Executed

NC1207204293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1710 GMT 12 Jul 93

[Text] Major General 'Abd-al-Wahid Salman (al-Zabbat), commander of the 4th Corps, was captured by the Iraqi opposition forces in al-'Amarah Governorate on 28 June. The people's death sentence was carried out on him.

Travel to Jordan Slows Down to 'Mere Trickle'

NC1207184693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Jul 93

[Text] Traffic between Iraq and Jordan has slowed down to a mere trickle since the tyrannical regime imposed exorbitant travel fees on Iraqi citizens some three months ago.

Jordanian sources today said that the number of travelers passing daily through [words indistinct] is little more than a few scores of people, mostly merchants. At the same time last year, this center was bustling with Iraqis around the clock.

Peres Proposes Negotiations on Permanent Arrangement

TA1507080593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jul 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] In a meeting with the State Department team headed by Dennis Ross two days ago, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres proposed to alter the basic approach to the peace talks and start negotiating with the Palestinians about a permanent arrangement based on the notion of a confederation between the territories and Jordan, and at the same time pursue the talks about autonomy.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin told HA'ARETZ yesterday that discussions on a permanent arrangement in the negotiations on the interim arrangement would ease the contacts on the implementation of the autonomy. According to him, viewing a confederation as a way of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 242 in the permanent arrangement would be the most appropriate solution.

He pointed out that as far back as two years ago, the Labor bureau passed a resolution mentioning the possibility of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. "A very rare situation has emerged where all the sides—Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel—are seriously pondering such a solution. A mutually acceptable arrangement has emerged for the first time in 100 years of conflict," Beilin said. He noted that in its letter of assurances to the Palestinians, the United States also noted that a confederative arrangement would be the most appropriate solution for the duration of the discussions on the permanent arrangement.

The notion of a confederation was raised once again in the talks the PLO and Jordan began a few days ago in Amman. Ross said in his meetings with Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that he had the impression that the sides were seriously discussing such a possibility and that the United States is interested in it. Two months ago, when Peres put forth the idea of a confederation in a cabinet session, Rabin said that in his opinion the talks should focus on the Madrid formula, according to which only the interim arrangement is to be discussed at this point.

Two days ago, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein called for including in the document of principles, which is scheduled to be signed by Israel and the Palestinians, a declaration to the effect that a confederation would be the most appropriate solution in the framework of the permanent arrangement.

Cabinet ministers are increasingly looking for new ways to promote the peace process, either through a continuation of the talks with the Palestinian delegation or through direct contacts with the PLO. Apparently, the document the Palestinians presented to Ross denotes a radicalization in the PLO's positions. They propose that the autonomy apply to all the territories occupied in 1967, primarily to Jerusalem. Israel and the United States categorically rejected this formula. Senior officials in Jerusalem yesterday noted that all the sides have doubts about the chances of reaching a mutually acceptable formula based on the U.S. working paper and of a continuation of the talks between delegations of officials in Washington. [passage omitted]

Peace Process, Ross Visit Viewed Positively

TA1407143093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jul 93 p 2

[Editorial: "No Longer the Same Gap"]

[Text] The U.S. peace-promoting team, headed by Dennis Ross, is leaving the Middle East without tangible achievements. There is an impression that the polite meetings with the Arab and Israeli leaders have not been greatly beneficial, and no considerable breakthrough was achieved. A waste of time and energy, and nothing beyond that.

This outward impression is erroneous and misleading. The political process is moving forward not by ostentatious displays, but rather by level-headed, well-regulated steps that often seem meager and ineffective and yet manage to generate hope for greater affinity between the sides. When the Americans first announced their plan to dispatch a delegation, Palestinian circles responded with reservation, and some even hinted that they would not talk with Ross and his team. And yet, the moment the Americans landed in Lod, the Palestinian attitude changed substantially: Not only did they meet with the team, they even submitted a detailed document of principles of their own, repeatedly emphasizing how much they valued the U.S. bridging efforts.

Although the Palestinian document is unacceptable to Israel because of its preoccupation with the issue of Jerusalem and the territorial jurisdiction of autonomy, it also contains new flexible formulations reflecting a desire to extract the peace talks from the zero point in which they got stuck. Furthermore, President al-Asad has unequivocally reiterated his commitment to the peace process, although he also implied that he was in no hurry. Not yet....

In Israel, too, new trends favoring compromise can be sensed. The rejection of negotiations with the PLO is much less adamant than ever in the past. The Israeli Government has even informed the Americans that we are ready and willing to upgrade the level of the peace talks, although such upgrading may involve acknowledging the status of a senior political PLO representation. So much so that for the first time yesterday, Minister Moshe Shahal presented a blueprint of future cooperation between Israel Police and the Palestinian police force in the framework of autonomous territory.

The U.S. team is not returning to the White House empty-handed. On the contrary: It has been so favorably impressed that it will recommend that Secretary of State Warren Christopher pay a visit to our region as soon as possible, in order to personally give the peace process—the still-alive peace process—another push forward. The process became tangled and convoluted; it encountered unexpected barriers; it is suffering from a dearth of new ideas, but this process—our future peace—is still breathing. And that is the main thing.

Rabin Aide Denies Knowledge of Agreement on Lebanon

TA1407191693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] A Western diplomat in Beirut said that following U.S. intervention, Israel, Syria, and Lebanon had agreed to act to restore quiet in south Lebanon.

In reaction, Prime Minister Rabin's media adviser asserted that he had no knowledge of such an agreement; however, the recent developments in south Lebanon had been discussed in the course of Dennis Ross' meetings in the region.

Government Said Conveying 'Restraint' on Lebanon

TA1407185593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur said today that Israel will not repeat what he termed the folly of the war of Lebanon. Speaking at the Knesset debate on the situation on the Lebanese border, Deputy Minister Gur said that government will make every effort to put an end to the suffering of the inhabitants of the north as soon as possible.

Our Knesset affairs correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports that the deputy defense minister's remarks at the Knesset conveyed the message of restraint, abeyance, and patience on the part of the government vis-a-vis the developments in the security zone.

Deputy Minister Gur replied to motions on the agenda submitted by Knesset Members 'Ovadya 'Eli from the Likud and Yosef Ba-Gad from Moledet, who accused the government of failing to take firm action in the wake of the events in south Lebanon.

Government Urged Not To Relax Stance Toward Syria

TA1407173793 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 14 Jul 93 p 5

[Article by Moshe Zaq: "Damascus to Jerusalem: A Syrian Lebanon Is Better for You"]

[Excerpts] A group of U.S. senators submitted to the Senate in Washington a resolution that calls for the Syrian Government to pull its troops out of Lebanon. The Syrian president did not like the initiative, suspecting that Israel was behind it and that Israel was even liable to interfere with the attempts to persuade the U.S. Administration to strike Syria off the list of countries that support international terror.

The Israeli delegation to the Washington talks told the U.S. delegation that it should take care of the Syrian Army's evacuation from Lebanon.

Syria persuaded the Lebanese Government to issue a statement to the effect that the Syrian Army is deployed in Lebanon at the invitation of the Lebanese president. Unlike the Syrian Army, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is deployed in Lebanon contrary to the Beirut government's wishes and contrary to Security Council Resolution 425.

Taking a grave view of these instances of Israeli "interference," Syria signaled to Jerusalem that Israel should learn to accept the Syrian rule in Lebanon because Syria can regulate the activities of terrorist organizations that operate against Israel from within the Syrian-controlled territory.

This was the import of the recent terrorist attacks on Israel. The Syrians did not react explicitly: They neither threatened nor cautioned. This is the secret of al-Asad's sophistication. And Jerusalem took the hint: The announcement of Ahmad Jibril, a former Syrian Army major, that he coordinates the operations of his organization—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command—with those of Hizballah, was perceived as confirmation of the theory that Syrians are indeed directing the violent anti-Israel activities by remote control.

The Americans were therefore requested to relay a clear message to Damascus: We have received your signals, and we are aware of your intentions. This was not stated explicitly, but al-Asad was able to read the message to mean that Israel is prepared to include the Lebanese issue in the bilateral talks. [passage omitted]

In the past, Syria has proved that it can control Palestinian terrorism within its territory. It defeated 'Arafat and routed his forces from Tripoli in a bloody battle. Syria knew how to restrain Jibril when it feared that its links with him could plunge it into an open confrontation with the United States. Now, however, with the United States courting Syria in order to dissuade Damascus from quitting the peace process and with al-Asad under the impression that Israel's hands are tied and that Jerusalem will not react firmly to the Palestinians' provocations, the Syrian president has no objection to letting Jibril's boys run loose to exhaust Israel and undermine its ability to hang on to its positions in the negotiations currently under way between the two countries.

What can Israel do to make the Syrian president aware of his mistake?

First of all, the Israeli establishment can stop making public all of its considerations with regard to the aggravating attacks on its northern border. There is no reason for al-Asad to feel that he has no reason to fear a large-scale Israeli operation in Lebanon, in light of the opposition to such a move inside the Israeli cabinet.

There is no need for al-Asad and his lackeys in Lebanon to live in the certitude that Israel will refrain from any serious retaliation out of fear of triggering a terrorist counteroffensive that could force the residents of the Galilee panhandle into air-raid shelters. Such talk will not free the Galilee residents from having to sleep in shelters. On the contrary, such talk will only lead to the launching of more katyusha rockets, even without any Israeli retaliation.

Had al-Asad not been aware of the Israeli Government's hesitation with regard to the appropriate way to react to the attacks, he would have tried to rein in the Shiite and Palestinian terrorists to stop them from endangering vital Syrian interests and from crossing the red lines in Lebanon.

If al-Asad knew that the United States would refuse to accept the use of the Washington talks as a cover for Syrian-sponsored Palestinian and Shiite terrorism, then the Syrian president would reassess the developments in south Lebanon.

If al-Asad were certain that this was the U.S. position, he would stop the terrorist attacks, and not just for the two or three days until the Israelis cool off. However, as things now stand, al-Asad is convinced that both the Israelis and the Americans will be careful not to overstretch the rope with him. That is what is motivating him to make maximum use of the terrorist tool he controls.

Iran Reportedly Warns Against Attacking Hizballah

TA1407143593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jul 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Excerpt] In messages, Israel has been informed over the past days by senior Iranian elements that Iran would carry out attacks against Israel and Israeli targets abroad if Israel launches an operation against Hizballah in south Lebanon.

It has been further learned that Iran has threatened Syria as well, demanding that it withdraw from the political process. According to the information, this was one of the reasons why U.S. envoy Dennis Ross failed to receive any Syrian promise to attempt to prevent Hizballah and Ahmad Jibril's organization from carrying out terrorist attacks in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Rabin, Estonia's Laar Sign Cooperation Agreements

TA1407141593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Jul 93 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Excerpt] Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed agreements on cultural, scientific, and educational cooperation yesterday in Jerusalem.

The Estonian prime minister arrived in Israel two days ago for a four-day official visit.

In his meeting with Rabin, the visitor was briefed on the situation in the Middle East. Rabin emphasized that Israel's international standing was good today, and that it was well received by most of the international community.

The visiting prime minister noted that Estonia considers Israel a role model. "We are also a small country. Your history and your achievement have showed us that democracy can help in the development of a country and its economy," Estonian Prime Minister Laar said.

Estonia is striving to improve its relations with the United States and the free world. It is seeking Israel's assistance in the promotion of trade, economy, tourism, and other fields. It was agreed that Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit, who attended the meeting, would discuss cooperation projects with Prime Minister Laar. [passage omitted]

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Strike on Iraq

TA1507112993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jul 93 p B1

[Commentary by Aluf Ben: "Trigger-Happy"]

[Text] The U.S. missile attack against Iraq on 26 June, during which 23 Tomahawk cruise missiles were launched at the intelligence headquarters in Baghdad, opened a new era in warfare and severely harmed international arms control efforts. In his decision to launch the missiles, President Clinton demolished the moral structure erected by George Bush against the use of long-range missiles.

The Bush administration made great efforts in formulating an international moral norm against the use of missiles, putting them on par with nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. During the Bush days, the Americans resorted to threats of sanctions for forcing many countries, including Israel, to accept the limitations imposed by MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) and to stop the trade in long-range missiles, their parts, or know-how.

The legitimacy of missiles was further eroded following Iraq's missile attacks against Israeli cities during the

Gulf war. Israel is particularly concerned about surface-to-surface missile attacks on its territory. The government's arms control initiative, publicized by Shim'on Peres in January, is mainly aimed at removing the long-range missile threat from the Middle East.

The recent Tomahawk attack on Baghdad put an end to the moral checks on the use of missiles. This is not the first time that the United States has attacked Iraq with cruise missiles: 288 missiles were launched during the Gulf War and 45 missiles last January. In both cases, however, the Tomahawk missiles were fired in the framework of a confrontation that included air strikes. The operation on 26 June was the first time in which the United States settled for the use of Tomahawks alone. In his message to Congress regarding the attack, President Clinton wrote that the operation was "limited" and would deter Iraq from illegal behavior in future. Thus, Clinton legitimized the use of long-range missiles as an accepted weapon.

The Tomahawk is the most suitable weapon for U.S. purposes: Achieving the objective with zero losses. The nation which has lost thousands of its sons in the futile war in Vietnam is willing to pay any price for keeping its soldiers away from the dangers of the battlefield. One military expert wrote after the operation: "Every Tomahawk missile costs more than $1 million, but it is worthwhile to waste a missile rather than risk the loss of a plane and a pilot."

This is precisely the source of the moral dilemma inherent in the use of long-range missiles: It encourages a trigger-happy attitude. Leaders of democratic regimes find it very hard to use weapon systems that endanger the lives of soldiers. It is much easier for them to launch the Tomahawk or any other missile than to send a plane and a pilot.

The Gulf war provided ample proof for this. The Iraqis fired dozens of Scuds without any hesitation, while Israel pondered whether it should send its Air Force to react, seeing that it had no other option. The fear of escalation and political entanglement, as well as of the dangers the pilots would face over Iraq, carried the weight against such an operation. After the war, senior Israeli sources said that it would have been much easier to make a decision on a missile attack in reaction to the Scud attacks—had such a reaction been viable.

The Tomahawk's sophisticated guidance system enables a missile launched from a distance of 1,000 km to hit a target with a deviation of 10 meters. The Tomahawk's accuracy makes it, on the face of it, a more "moral" weapon than the Scud: It is suitable for use against pinpoint military targets, not merely for terror attacks against the civilian population. But the Tomahawk is also not perfect. In the last attack, only 16 of the missiles hit the target, while three of the seven that missed hit a residential neighborhood and killed civilians.

Moral questions do not particularly interest the Americans, who are presently striving to find military tasks in the post-Cold War era. The reaction by the U.S. professional magazines to the 26 June attack were full of enthusiasm. The U.S. Navy is currently formulating a new nonnuclear deterrence strategy for areas of tension. This strategy will be based on cruise or ballistic missiles launched from submarines. A Third World ruler who would dare disobey the global cop from Washington could face a missile strike of the kind sustained by Saddam Husayn.

Clinton's successful operation and the policy of "active deterrence" with conventional missiles are a clear signal for the exacerbation of the missile arms race. Over the next few years, more countries will start developing cruise missiles, which at the present time only the United States and the CIS possess. Several months ago Jane's enumerated the countries possessing a technological capacity for developing cruise missiles: France, the PRC, Brazil, Italy, Iraq, North Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, and Israel.

The United States intends to lead the cruise missile race. It is already planning to invest hundreds of millions of dollars for upgrading the Tomahawks to increase their range, improve their accuracy to a deviation margin of three meters, and provide it with the ability to hit moving targets.

U.S. experts believe that the proliferation of cruise missiles will give the superpowers an advantage, because the technology required for developing and manufacturing them is expensive and complex in comparison with ballistic missiles such as the Scud. During a convention sponsored by the U.S. arms industry on technological projections, one U.S. expert said: "The Saddams of the world will have to exert a great financial and technological effort if they decide to use cruise instead of ballistic missiles. At the same time, the developed countries will have an easier time supervising them."

Experience, however, teaches that it is very difficult to return the technological genie to the bottle. Superpower legitimation of the development, maintenance, and use of conventional long-range missiles should cause grave concern in Israel, which is under the missile threat.

Failure of Arrow Missile Test Launch Reported

Malfunction Blamed

TA1407201893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The sixth launching of the Arrow missile, which was scheduled for today, will be completed in approximately 45 days. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela reports that only the target missile was launched today, while the Arrow missile, which was supposed to intercept it, was not fired, apparently due to a malfunction.

In the first such attempt in the West, today's scheduled launching was meant to probe the Arrow's capability to intercept a surface-to-surface missile bearing a nonconventional warhead.

Details Reported

TA1407195993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] A test launching of the Arrow missile failed today. The launching of the missile, which was supposed to intercept another missile during the test, failed. Our army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik is here with the details:

Here are the first details that were just revealed for publication a few minutes ago from the sixth test launching of the Arrow antiballistic-missile missile.

At approximately 1130 [0830 GMT], a dud missile was launched from a boat anchored off the coast of central Israel, near the missile-testing site. The target missile was a replica of an enemy missile bearing a chemical warhead. In actual fact, the warhead was loaded with water and aluminum chaff.

According to reports about the planned experiment that were recently published in the United States, an Arrow missile with a fully armed warhead was supposed to be launched several minutes later to intercept the dud missile. However, in the course of the actual experiment, the intercepting missile failed to take off from the launching pads on the ship, and the test failed.

Israel Aircraft Industries engineers are still studying the data from the failed launching. It should be recalled that the Arrow's fifth test launching was deemed a success after the intercepting missile homed in to within several meters of its target missile, thus effectively intercepting it. Today's trial launching of the Arrow missile failed, and it remains unclear when the next test will be held.

Opposition Factions Submit No-Confidence Motions

TA1407143993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Four opposition factions have submitted motions of no confidence in the government. The Likud's motion was prompted by the civil service strike and refers to what it terms the government's fiasco in the administration, economy, and society.

The NRP [National Religious Party] and Tzomet submitted a no-confidence motion over the decision to import beef to Israel. Tzomet explained that it supports the motion because exposing the Israeli meat market to import will have an adverse effect on local beef growers. NRP said that the privatization of meat imports will open the country to nonkosher meat. Moledet's no-confidence motion was submitted over contacts with the PLO.

Police Prevent Attempt To Set Up Golan Settlement

TA1407141993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The police have prevented an attempt to set up a new settlement in the Golan. Five trucks carrying prefab houses have been intercepted: two in the vicinity of Sha'al in the Golan and three in the Tiberias area.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the organizers of the settlement attempt had camouflaged the prefab houses. They tried to disguise the trucks' loads as fruit crates, and the drivers had been furnished with bills of goods listing fruit.

At present Golan residents are trying to prevent the trucks from being turned back, demanding to be allowed to unload the houses and place them in their designated locations.

Two Trucks Allowed To Remain

TA1407181593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Police Minister Moshe Shahal has agreed to allow two of the five trailer trucks sent by settlers to the Golan to remain for the time being on the Heights at Moshav Sha'al. Earlier, the police halted the five trucks carrying prefabricated houses to a projected settlement in the Sha'al area. [passage omitted]

Minister Shahal Comments on Palestinian Police Force

TA1307164593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal has said that when the Palestinian autonomy is implemented, the military government will retain sovereign powers, and the powers of the Civil Administration will be handed over to the local population. Shahal believes that the autonomy's police force will deal with the local population, and Israel Police will deal with Israeli citizens in the territories. If disturbances take place, order will be enforced by Israel Police and Border Police troops. This will call for a redeployment and an increase of the troops, he said. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that today Minister Shahal visited the town of Ari'el as a guest.

IDF Document Reports Decrease in Arab Fatalities

TA1307131593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] says that over the last year there has been a decrease in the number of Arab fatalities and detentions in the territories. This indicates a decreasing trend in disturbances and street violence.

A document submitted by the IDF General Staff to the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee states that, on the other hand, there is an increase in the number of security forces and Israeli citizens' fatalities. This indicates a real increase in the use of firearms and terrorist activity.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that according to the figures contained in the document, 166 Israelis—including 55 security personnel—have been killed by Arabs since the beginning of the intifadah. During the same period, 1,859 Arabs were killed—half of them by the security forces, and the other half by their compatriots.

Since the beginning of the intifadah approximately 100,000 Palestinians have been detained in the territories. Approximately 60,000 of them were incarcerated for various periods.

IDF Responds to Report on Child Casualty Toll

TA1307181393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The Israeli-based human rights organization Betzelem says 38 Palestinian children have been killed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] since the beginning of the year. The organization says 18 of them were under the age of 14.

In response, the IDF's spokesman said the Army views with great sadness the death of children, but that many times casualties have been unavoidable because armed terrorists fired at IDF troops when children were in close proximity.

Arab Killed, Another Wounded by Border Police

TA1407184593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] A short while ago, an army car came under fire from a civilian Fiat 127 in the Jordan Valley. The civilian car sped away. None of the army car passengers were injured.

Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that in Hebron, border policemen opened fire at a local car that tried to run them over, killing one Arab passenger and seriously wounding another.

Al-Majali on Election Issues, Detainees, Marches

JN1407175093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali met with the chairman and members of the Trade Unions Board at noon today. The heads of trade unions raised a number of domestic issues, around which a dialogue was held. During the meeting, the prime minister explained that Jordan's stance on peace is clear. It emphasizes coordination and cooperation with the brothers concerned about the peace process, especially the brother Palestinians, with whom we are working jointly to arrive at a just, honorable, and comprehensive settlement ensuring that the brother Palestinians will attain their rights. He said these negotiations, like anything else, include both positive and negative aspects. He added: We believe we Arabs should exert every effort to attain all our rights, God willing.

With respect to the amendment of the Elections Law and the discussions that are raised about this issue, the prime minister explained that the government, represented by the Council of Ministers, has not discussed this issue. He said: Personal opinions notwithstanding, if we want to exercise democracy and freedom honestly, it can be said that the way to deal with this issue has been explained and translated by His Majesty King Husayn's dialogue with members of the Senate. He said: This dialogue will continue until we all arrive at the most appropriate decision and at the right time.

With regard to calls for facilitating voter registration, the prime minister affirmed that the Constitution guarantees citizens the right to participate in parliamentary elections, and that they should register their names. He said those in charge of concerned departments should facilitate this national task within measures defined by law. He noted the Interior Ministry has moved up by one month the date set earlier for the start of registering unregistered voters. Registration will now begin at the beginning of next month. He said this decision was made to encourage Jordanians to exercise their right to vote. He said his majesty the king has frequently urged citizens not to be passively self-satisfied while at the same time demanding freedom, democracy, and participation.

The prime minister explained that he hopes that the brother heads of professional unions will view with an careful eye circumstances and developments in Jordan. He said an atmosphere of democracy is prevailing, and will continue, with the help of God. He said the issuance of the Parties Law has made parties engage in political activity as specialized organizations, and freed the trade unions of the burden of expressing political orientations. He said this requires that the trade unions return with their full weight and capabilities to the service of their members in their professional fields. He said trade unions must look after themselves, improve the performance of their members, attain their rights, and organize their work. He said this would help trade unions become factors of prosperity and stability, increase living conditions, and push forward the wheel of production in the interest of the homeland and the nation.

The prime minister explained he is not aware of the presence of political detainees in the literal sense of the word, but there are detainees who worked against the security of the state and citizens under a political guise or pretext. He said the case of such people is now before the State Security Court, which makes decisions on such issues.

Dr. al-Majali explained that with the issuance of the new Press and Publications Law and the Political Parties Law, and the exercise of the freedom of expression through various means, he would prefer that marches not be staged because they could be joined by forces that do not want or support Jordanian democracy and harbor evil against this secure country.

PLO's 'Abbas Departs Amman 14 Jul, Heads for Tunis

JN1407121193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas left Amman for Tunis at noon today after heading the Palestinian side to the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, held in Amman last Monday.

Paper Praises Jordanian-Palestinian Committee Meetings

JN1407112893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jul 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Jordanian-Palestinian Committees Represent A Well-Studied, Important Step"]

[Text] The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee has done well by setting up very important subcommittees to serve Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in the peace process.

Jordan and the Palestinian side are engaged in a difficult peace battle that should lead to the restoration of the occupied territories and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost being their right to self-determination, and the right of all brother refugees and evacuees to return to their homeland.

When we speak about the restoration of the occupied territories we mean, and we should mean the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. Therefore, the formation of the Jerusalem and Refugees Committees, was important in order to combine efforts toward the restoration of the holy Arab and Islamic city.

When a committee for refugees and evacuees is formed, this means that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides believe in the need to concentrate on the right of all sons of the Palestinian people who were forced out of their homeland by the Israeli occupation authorities to return, and the need for them to return to their homeland and to bolster the Palestinian national dialogue in face of the creeping expansionist Zionist settlements on the land of Palestine.

The Security, Borders, Water, Economic Affairs, and the Legislation and Laws Committees are vital and important committees for establishing future Jordanian-Palestinian relations on principled bases of understanding, cooperation, solidarity, and mutual respect for their joint interests, especially since the Jordanian-Palestinian relations are distinguished relations.

The formation of these subcommittees by the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee is a well-studied and correct step that indicates a joint desire to consolidate bilateral coordination on the peace process and future joint action. Relations that are based only on fraternal sentiments and feelings are not enough to ensure successful and advanced Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

Mutual respect for the interests and rights of both parties in various fields consolidates fraternal relations on clear and frank bases.

Hence, it should be said that the formation of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee and its subcommittees is a wide and well-studied step toward bolstering solidarity and coordination between the two fraternal peoples.

This responsible coordination, which is based on solid grounds, will strengthen the negotiating position of the two sides in the peace process.

U.S. Urged Not To Blame Arabs for Failed Ross Tour

*JN1507082293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
15 Jul 93 pp 1, 24*

[Editorial: "After the U.S. Envoy's Tour"]

[Text] Following an almost week-long tour, during which he visited a number of Middle East capitals and met with the various Arab parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the U.S. coordinator for Middle East negotiations returned home without being able to announce any progress in a mission that basically aimed at bringing closer the viewpoints of the negotiating parties and softening their stands on the topics under negotiation.

It is now clear that the draft declaration of principles, which the U.S. Administration proposed on the Palestinian-Israeli track, was a top priority for Dennis Ross, who met the Palestinians and the Israelis several times but was unable to convince either party, particularly the Palestinians, to accept the proposed declaration of principles, which was totally rejected by the Palestinians even as a basis for new negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

The most serious conclusion the U.S. envoy may arrive at when he submits his expected report to the U.S. State Department, and after making a comparison between the Palestinians and the Israelis, is to blame the failure of his mission on both parties equally, that is, if he does not blame the Palestinians alone for the failure, which, beyond any doubt, is due to the intransigent Israeli position. We are inclined to believe that this is what will happen, because we are seeing further bias by the U.S. Administration toward the Israeli viewpoint. This bias is even more evident than when the former Administration was in office. Additionally, the Americans, who are afraid of clashing with Israeli positions, have usually blamed the failure of successive missions by their diplomats on this or that Arab party.

In the light of this, we hope President Clinton's administration will avoid making such a fatal mistake, which may close the road before Warren Christopher's potential visit to the Middle East, completely destroy all hopes of Washington playing the fair broker role in the stumbling peace talks, and undermine an opportunity, which may not occur again in the foreseeable future, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace settlement in this troubled region of the world.

Jordanian Arab Democratic Party Receives License

*JN1307124193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
13 Jul 93 p 2*

[Text] Amman—Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has granted an official license to the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party [Al-Hizb al-'arabi al-dimuqrati al-urduni] based on the application submitted by Mu'nis al-Razzaz and others. This brings the number of licensed parties in Jordan to 20.

Officials Meet To Review Developments in South

NC1407163993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] In anticipation of any possibility [of military escalation in southern Lebanon], a meeting was held today between Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, and Army Commander in Chief General Emile Lahhud to review developments. Gen. Lahhud also met with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon commander for the same purpose. However, diplomatic reports ruled out the possibility that the situation will get worse.

Cabinet Discusses Israeli Aggression

NC1407201493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jul 93

[News conference by Information Minister Michel Samahah with unidentified correspondents at the end of the weekly cabinet meeting in Beirut on 14 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Samahah] At the invitation of his excellency the prime minister, the Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting today under his excellency the president. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Did the Council of Ministers (?discuss) American envoy Dennis Ross's tour of the region, and how was it evaluated?

[Samahah] The Council of Ministers did not discuss this subject.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, concerning the next cabinet session, will it be held [words indistinct]?

[Samahah] When the invitation for the next meeting is extended, the venue of the meeting will be announced.

[Correspondent] Have you discussed the Israeli aggression against the south [words indistinct]?

[Samahah] We discussed this, and the competent agencies have been given the necessary instructions. Any new or renewed aggression against the Lebanese soil falls within Israel's aggressive policy against both the liberated and the occupied lands of Lebanon.

SLA, IDF Return 'Terrorist' Fire Overnight

TA1507050593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Terrorists opened fire last night with machine guns and rocket propelled grenades on a fortified position of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] southwest of al-'Ayshiyah. The SLA and the Israeli Army returned the fire, and the area is now reported quiet.

Earlier, sources in south Lebanon told a Qol Yisra'el reporter there had been movements of Israeli troops and artillery in the sectors of Hula and al-Majidiyah. However, Israel Television's reporter in the north said he saw no sign of the big Israeli troop movements described in reports from Lebanon.

Hizballah and the other terrorist organizations are reported to be in a state of high alert for fear of Israeli retaliation for last week's terrorist attacks. In Beirut, the Lebanese Government met to discuss the situation in the south. UNIFIL, the UN peacekeeping force, is also on the alert and all leave has reportedly been canceled for UNIFIL soldiers. In northern Israel, the situation is described as quiet but tense.

Amal Claims Responsibility for Katyusha Attack

NC1507094493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Israeli occupation forces resumed their attacks on the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah today. Meanwhile, the Israeli forces bombarded the eastern suburb of Kafr Tibnit early today. Two houses were damaged by the bombardment. A citizen was slightly injured.

REUTER said this morning that katyushas were fired at the agent militias positions on 'Ali al-Tahir hill. The Amal Movement claimed responsibility for firing the rockets. Hizballah also claimed responsibility for shelling a position manned by militia men in Sujud. [passage omitted]

Security sources have told REUTER that Israel has sent 10 armored cars and 100 troops to the occupied border strip late last night. The agency said that an Israeli mechanized company has been deployed in the Hula area. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri, Buwayz Receive Qatari Foreign Minister

NC1407113493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1030 today received Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani and Industry and Energy Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah and their accompanying delegation. An expanded meeting was held between the Lebanese and Qatari delegations. On the Lebanese side the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Fu'ad Sinyurah, minister of state for financial affairs, and As'ad Rizq, minister of industry and oil.

After the meeting, Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani stated that the meeting dealt with developments in the Arab and international arenas, particularly the peace process, and industrial issues. He said that agreement was reached on a plan for cooperation between the two countries in all economic and trade fields and ways Qatar can contribute to reconstruction in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Holds Talks With Iraqi Opposition Delegation

JN1407152693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jul (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received a delegation representing the pan-Arab trend in the Iraqi opposition at 1330 today. The talks dealt with the efforts being exerted to unite the Iraqi opposition.

Commentaries View Ross Mission, Obstacles to Peace

Difficulty of Mission Analyzed

JN1207071393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Jul 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Is For a Just Peace," TISHRIN says: It suffices to review developments in the Middle East peace process since the U.S. initiative was launched to see how serious and sincere Syria is and to discover the falsity of Israeli peace claims.

TISHRIN says the Shamir government has placed every possible obstacle in the way of U.S. efforts. Were it not for Syria's responsible response and its opening the doors closed by Israel in the face of peace opportunities, the Madrid conference and the 10 rounds of the Washington talks would not have seen the light of day.

Syria also submitted a working paper including several objectives, balanced principles, and bases so that the talks would not continue to revolve in a vicious circle created by Israel. The international community, with the exception of Israel, welcomed the Syrian paper. Israel, instead, wasted time raising issues far removed from the essence of peace. Israel also sought continuously to raise marginal issues; yet peace is security and occupation is the antithesis of security and nurtures all kinds of tension in the region.

TISHRIN goes on: Syria has proposed the formula of full peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, as a translation of the land-for-peace formula, which constitutes the essence of the peace initiative and the Security Council resolutions. Israel, however, refused to commit itself to full withdrawal and its officials started talking about partial withdrawal and limited risks. Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday said that Israel will not go back to the June 1967 borders, but that it has to return part of the occupied territories in exchange for peace. Israeli officials have been unanimous on the confiscation of Jerusalem and the fact that it is not a subject for discussion. They even threatened to boycott the talks if the Arabs continue to raise this issue.

TISHRIN adds: Syria believes in just, comprehensive peace and is certainly working for it. Therefore, it has always asked the United States to translate its commitments into reality and to perform the role of full, honest, and fair partner. Although the U.S. commitment has to date not reflected on the Washington talks and on the Israeli negotiators, Syria has not lost hope about a fair, honest U.S. role to restore Arab rights and achieve justice and peace.

Any settlement in the Middle East not based on Arab rights, justice, and peace is doomed to fail. Arab rights require that Israel withdraw from the Arab territories and respect international law; justice requires that the Palestinian people exercise their national rights, foremost being their right to self-determination; and peace requires that Israel stop acts of aggression and terrorism and submit to international charters.

AL-BA'TH comments on Israel's escalation of aggressive acts against south Lebanon as the U.S. envoy Dennis Ross begins his tour of the region.

The paper says: As Ross began talks with the parties concerned with the peace process, Rabin sent more military reinforcements to the occupied part of southern Lebanon, threatening a large-scale military strike. This confirms Israel's extreme hostility to peace. No one can reconcile the shedding of Arab blood at the hands of Zionist occupation forces and the claims made by the occupation leaders about peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: We can say, therefore, that the talks of the U.S. envoy in the region, devoted to the peace process in the first place, were enveloped in an atmosphere of military tension and threats to escalate matters at any moment. This blocks the road, one way or another, before the U.S. role toward peace—a role known recently as a full partner role.

AL-BA'TH goes on: As a confirmation of preconceptions and placing obstacles in the way of the U.S. envoy, Rabin, arranging the implementation of his military program in southern Lebanon, quickly reiterated his rejection of full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and his insistence on partial solutions, which are of no use to the peace process.

This is why Ross's mission appears difficult. His mission might require, as a result of its clash with an increasingly intransigent Israeli position, future U.S. activity, perhaps at the level of the secretary of state. At any rate, it seems that what is required at this stage, especially after the failure of the 10th round, is for the United States to play a full partner role, or, to be more specific and accurate, the role of an honest, impartial partner who has single terms of reference for peace. Progress can then be made toward achieving a just, comprehensive peace in this region. Israel insists on either creating more tension in the region or having full control over it. Either case contradicts the principles and bases of peace.

Pressure on Israel Urged

JN1407082093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Is Required Is A Return to the Bases of the Peace Process," AL-BA'TH says: As the U.S. peace talks coordinator concluded his tour of the region, reports emerged that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might make a new tour shortly to prepare for an 11th round of talks.

AL-BA'TH adds: Such preparation requires first of all creating an appropriate atmosphere that would advance the peace process and break the stalemate caused by the Israeli positions during the previous rounds and Israeli practices inside the occupied territories.

Such an atmosphere cannot be created by words and statements, or overoptimism at times. It must be created through a practical translation of intentions, beginning immediately with pressure on Israel to withdraw its military reinforcements from southern Lebanon and retract its aggressive threats, which are close to igniting the occupied part of Lebanon.

An equally important point is that intense pressure should be put on the Israeli forces to stop the series of bloody terrorist acts carried out daily against our kinfolk in the occupied territories.

Taking such a step, AL-BA'TH concludes, would be a practical beginning of the full partner role, repeatedly emphasized by the Clinton administration and recently reiterated in the message received by President Hafiz al-Asad from President Clinton.

When the U.S. role has recourse to the bases of the peace process and takes its dimensions by being an honest broker, using single terms of reference for the peace process, then this will be, first and foremost, in the interest of the entire world, which is aspiring for peace, justice, security and stability in one of its most precarious regions.

Commenting on Israeli belligerence, AL-THAWRAH says: The serious escalation and deliberate igniting of the situation in southern Lebanon, as well as threats to launch a large-scale aggression against Lebanon by Rabin and the generals of the Israeli military establishment, coincide with the tour of the U.S. Administration's coordinator, Dennis Ross.

All these practices represent an exposed attempt to circumvent the efforts of the U.S. Administration and its pledges to the Arab parties to play the role of partner and catalyst for the peace process, in order to achieve just, comprehensive peace based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy on all fronts and bring about Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Israel is also using southern Lebanon as a means to put pressure on Lebanon and on Arab negotiators in general to obtain concessions and impose Israeli peace conditions.

Peace requires bridling and deterring this policy before it drags the region into war and total conflagration. The Tel Aviv rulers should realize that aggression, use of force, and occupation will not provide security for Israel or achieve peace for its settlers. This is the impossible itself. Shedding Arab blood is not permissible. Also, land and national rights are not, and will never be, a subject of bargaining, no matter how long it takes.

Arab Response to Peace Efforts Viewed

JN1407165793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. delegation led by Dennis Ross has concluded its tour of the region. It expressed some optimism, even while acknowledging a large gap still exists between the Palestinian and Israeli positions. The U.S. delegation thought its talks with the Arab parties to the peace talks were positive. It indicated U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher may visit the region to continue these efforts.

We are in no doubt that the Arab side was the source of any positive indications sensed by Ross during his tour. The rulers of Tel Aviv are not up to the peace process. By reiterating their impossible preconditions, these rulers are erecting more obstacles to a just Middle East settlement. They are denying the Arabs their right to regain their occupied territories. They are denying the Palestinian people their right to be reassured about the integrity of their territories and the future of occupied Jerusalem. This is especially true because the Palestinian people are merely being offered limited self-rule for a period of five years, during which Israel wants to continue settlement building, destroying the features of the Palestinian territories.

In Syria, Dennis Ross was strongly encouraged to continue his mission. President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's concern about achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, based on UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Ross expressed some optimism because of the Arab response to his peace mission—a response that may prompt U.S. Secretary of State Christopher to exert more of his own efforts. However, the problem is still in Israel, whose rulers refuse to exchange land-for-peace and implement UN Security Council resolutions. They insist on a peace by installments and by phased settlements aimed, as they say, at testing the Arabs' peaceful intentions. Meanwhile, the Arabs are the victims of Israeli aggression. They are the ones whose territories have been occupied since 1967 and who are being sujected every day to the most horrific kinds of oppression, repression, terrorism, and killing.

Perhaps the cries of war made by Israel's rulers ever since Ross came to the region unequivocally confirm these rulers' hostile intentions, as well as their plans to exacerbate the situation and heat up tension in a manner that reflects negatively on the peace efforts and on Christopher's expected tour.

Israel committed thousands of unjustified acts of aggression against southern Lebanon. It destroyed entire villages, displaced tens of thousands of civilians, took control of regional water resources, and formed an army of mercenaries with no duty but to launch daily raids on Lebanese villages and destroy villagers' homes. If the Lebanese make a move to defend their territory and their lives and to reaffirm their identity, the Israeli rulers raise hell and call it terrorism and an alleged disturbance of their security.

Israel is currently sending more forces to southern Lebanon while it releases one war statement after another. It is threatening the Lebanese with tribulation and disaster. This time, it is preparing the appropriate media and political climate for a large-scale aggression. Israel wants the Lebanese, whose territory it is occupying, to be the guardians of its invading forces, to maintain its security, and to give up part of their country. Is this not the peak of arrogance and fascism?

Israel's pretexts will not hold up to the simplest test. The occupation is the source of tension, violence, and evil. The end of the occupation would lead to stability in the border areas. Security would prevail. However, by a flow of threats and provocations, Israel seeks to carry out a large-scale aggression in order to achieve two basic objectives. The first objective is to exert pressure on Lebanon to stop demanding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 calling for the unconditional withdrawal of the invading forces. The second objective is to deal a strong blow to the current peace efforts in order to abort Christopher's expected mission in the region and allow Zionist expansionist schemes to take their course in the occupied territories.

The Arabs seek a real, just, and durable peace. They have repeatedly proved this through their response to U.S. and international efforts. In fact, these efforts received no encouragement except in Arab capitals, especially Damascus. However, peace and occupation do not go together. Israel's intentions to carry out an aggression against southern Lebanon and its insistance on keeping an important part of the occupied territories and usurping Jerusalem confirm that its rulers are not serious about achieving the desired peace in the region.

The pretexts of security claims it uses to carry out the new acts of aggression are false. A just peace will guarantee security in the region. There is no peace but a just peace that requires the recognition of Palestinian rights and the full withdrawal from the occupied territories, as stipulated by UN Security Council resolutions.

Palestinian Students Reportedly Detained

*JN1507070593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
15 Jul 93 p 1*

[Text] Amman—Arrivals from Damascus have said the Syrian authorities have detained a number of Palestinian students returning from Ukrainian universities via Syria. The students carry Jordanian passports valid for two years.

It is worth noting that the Syrian authorities recently prevented holders of the two-year Jordanian passports from entering Syria.

Afghanistan

Dostam Meets With Mazari, Hekmatyar Envoys

LD1407215193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Esteemed General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the Jonbesh-e Meli-e Eslami Afghanistan [National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan], met this morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, leader of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], and Wahidollah Sabawun and Homayun Jarir, special envoys of esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. At the meeting, the discussions held in a friendly atmosphere two days ago between the leader of Jonbesh-e Meli-e Eslami and the leader of Hezb-e Eslami were reviewed.

Said Offered Two Cabinet Posts

BK1407114693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1035 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Kabul, Jul 14 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has offered two seats in his new cabinet to the former pro-communist militia warlord General Abdol Rashid Dostam, diplomats said Wednesday [14 July].

The offer is said to be conditional on two points. First, Dostam's nominees must be Mojahedin and not former communists, and second, the nominees must be approved by the other Mojahedin leaders, including President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

This matter was reportedly discussed when Dostam met the prime minister for two and a half hours of talks Monday at a military base of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] faction a few kilometres east of the capital.

The defection of Dostam's Uzbek militia to the Mojahedin precipated the April 1992 collapse of the Moscow-supported Afghan communist regime. But Dostam has been disappointed that one year later his efforts still have not been recognised officially by the ruling Mojahedin factions.

Dostam now heads a politico-military front, the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, or Jonbesh [-e Meli-e Eslami-e Afghanistan], that is a coalition of Mojahedin and former communist forces based in the northwest of Afghanistan.

The four-star army general, nominated deputy defence minister last year, is eager to have Jonbesh officially recognised as a legitimate power by the Mojahedin leaders he fought against during the civil war.

But Dostam said he was not begging for recognition from Jonbesh, and made clear that he was stating his demands from a position of strength, officials said.

Dostam's arrival in the capital from his northwest stronghold has been touted as an Afghan attempt to solve outstanding problems between the various Mojahedin factions and to secure a permanent peace in the country. Hekmatyar, "for security reasons," has on the other hand yet to assume office in Kabul.

Some Afghan sources speculate that Hekmatyar's long-term rival, former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, has struck a new alliance with Dostam and is preparing to topple the prime minister.

But such a move would be complicated by Junbish's special relationship with Hekmatyar's military ally, the Shi'ite Muslim faction Hezb-e-Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party].

'Abdol Ali Mazari, the Wahdat leader, met Dostam for the second time Wednesday morning at his south Kabul headquarters, where he was briefed on the the Jonbesh leader's talks with Hekmtayar.

"General Dostam put us in the picture about his talks with the prime minister, the aim of which was to strengthen the ceasefire and to continue efforts for peace," Mazari told journalists.

Mazari said arrangements for a proposed joint meeting between Hekmatyar, Rabbani and Mas'ud had not been finalised yet, but that relations between Hekmatyar's Hezb faction and Rabbani's Jamiat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] faction were good.

But on the sensitive issue of the surrender of heavy weapons by the warring Mojahedin factions, a crucial pre-requisite for permanent peace in Kabul, Mazari said there had been no progress.

Some members of the commission appointed to supervise the surrender had not been able to attend the commission meetings, ironically due to "security problems" in Kabul.

Mazari said he and Dostam were to continue their talks about peace efforts and the exchange of prisoners-of-war between the warring Mojahedin factions.

An exchange of POWs between Wahdat and opposing Ettehad-e-Eslami [Islamic Union Party] faction took place eight days ago. Wahdat released seven prisoners and Ettehad released 14, official sources reported.

Cabinet Discusses Security, Talks With Dostam

LD1407214093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Esteemed Engineer Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, chaired a cabinet meeting at the prime minister's temporary office in Charasiab today. Necessary decisions were made on political, economic, social, and security matters.

The Press Department of the Prime Minister's Office has reported that today's meeting was opened by prayers and a brief statement by esteemed Hekmatyar. A report on discussions by Afghanistan's high- ranking delegation to the Economic Cooperation Organization, presented by Hamidollah Tarzi, economic affairs adviser to the prime minister, was comprehensively debated.

At the meeting, various matters were discussed, including the talks held by Prime Minister Hekmatyar with General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the Jonbesh-e Meli-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan]. The implementation of previous cabinet decisions was assessed, together with a number of other matters.

At today's session the delegation entrusted with the implementation of cabinet decisions was once again emphatically urged to bring about the consolidation of a permanent cease-fire, as well as practical measures toward the cessation of hostilities, the opening of roads—in particular, the opening of Gozargah road—and the evacuation of armed groups from the prime minister's office. Other security affairs were also discussed. The delegation was instructed to strictly observe the reservation of foodstuff and fuel and its distribution in Kabul city. [passage omitted]

Commission, Parties Agree on Weapons Distribution

LD1507112693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The Defense Ministry Commission met today. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that, at the meeting, in which members of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], Jamiat-e Eslami [Islamic Society], Mahaz-e Meli-ye Eslami [National Islamic Front], Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement], and Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement], approved the following matters:

1. Representatives should put forward the names of three persons from their formations to a meeting to be held tomorrow at 1400 so that work may begin on drawing up a list of weapons.

2. Every formation is dutybound to put forward the names of 200 reliable persons to attend a meeting of the commission in the coming week so to take urgent measures for the (?collection of) heavy weapons.

3. The commission once again strongly requests the representatives of those jihadi formations who have not sent their delegates to the meetings so far to take part in the commission meeting.

Rabbani Discusses ECO Meeting, Selection of Ministers

LD1407131593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1635 GMT 13 Jul 93

[News conference by President Borhannodin Rabbani with foreign and domestic correspondents in Kabul on 13 July; correspondents' questions read by announcer—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Rabbani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Esteemed journalists and dear guests: Peace and the blessings of God be upon you.

Now that considerable developments in the interest of peace and stability of the situation are continuing to take place in our country, and, similarly, a high-ranking delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has returned to the homeland after participation in the conference of the heads of state of member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] in Istanbul, I am pleased to meet with you and exchange views with you. Esteemed journalists you know that over the recent months positive developments, which are the source of well-founded hopes for the consolidation and stability of the situation in the country, have taken place. After jehadi leaders' talks and their reaching agreements, a relatively broad-based government has been formed in Afghanistan. It consists of representatives of parties and groups with the aim of serving their war weary country.

The present stage to which our society has now entered provides equal possibilities for all parties and our compatriots so that everybody and every group, in accordance with its power and professional activities, can make sincere efforts for the repair of the destruction caused by the war. Now no position and no possibility is in the monopoly of any special group and force. Now opportunities for political activities and for serving our oppressed people and faithful nation are available. It is a clear fact that our country has been ruined as a result of the 14-year war and the invasion of the aggressor forces. The historic mission of the reconstruction of the country rests before the state, government, and the people of Afghaistan as an Islamic and national obligation. With the success of the Islamic revolution, and, now that a government with a relatively broad base, headed by esteemed brother Engineer Hekmatyar, has started work, there is no reason for the continuance of [words indistinct] of the people and for the creating of insecurity.

At this juncture it is necessary that all problems are resolved through negotiation and understanding. Experience has proven that there is no other way to resolve problems. Taking this principle into account, the Islamic State of Afghanistan has placed emphasis on the peaceful and political solution of problems and is actively taking part in this process. Now that the government has started work, our expectation and the wish of all Afghan people are that the government is capable of fulfilling its duties and programs, and meet the Islamic, social, security, and economic demands of our Muslim compatriots. Our people are tired of war. Our country has been converted to a ruin as a result of the futile armed clashes.

Everyone hates fighting and those who fan the flames of fighting. The demand of the state and the wish of the people is for the government of brother Hekmatyar to resolutely act to remove the causes of military disputes. In line with the Islamabad and Jalalabad accords, heavy weapons will be gathered under the supervision of the Defense Ministry Commission. Obstacles and demarcation lines are to be removed inside the cities and other points. The firing of rockets into residential areas is to be stopped immediately. Supply routes and highways are to be opened. Security of persons and vehicles is to be ensured and guaranteed. The move toward holding free, direct, secret, and universal elections is to be speeded up. The expectation of all of us is that the state and government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan should wisely make the moves necessary to bring about the stability and strength of the political system of the country. This can be implemented when the statutes and regulations that have become legitimate are observed.

Coming out of the chaotic situation of administration can better be achieved when the authority, responsibility, and acitivities of each state body are clearly determined and specified, with observation and implementation of the statutes and regulations. With hope I note that the requirement of the current situation will more than ever make responsible state and government authorities turn their attention to the observation of this very important principle. Although no reason now exists for causing chaos and disruption—because all esteemed jehadi leaders in their recent meeting resolutely emphasized that the solution of problems is to be rendered through understanding and talks and the government has actually started its work—unfortunately some elements and groups still prefer their personal and group interests and aims over the high interests of the Muslim Afghan nation, and they cause insecurity and disruption in an attempt to achieve their illegitimate aims.

For some time our compatriots, especially residents of the city of Kabul, have lived in fear and worry because of food poisoning. Obviously every sensible person condemns such acts. Security organs have captured some perpetrators of these shameful acts and the series of prosecutions and investigations is continuing. [passage omitted]

The Afghan delegation in Istanbul in its meetings with heads of all participating delegations, which were carried out separately, affirmed the stances of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on regional and world incidents, on the friendship of the state and the government of Afghanistan, based on the desire to expand and deepen overall relations and cooperation, on respect for independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and noninterference of countries in the internal affairs of one another. During those meetings it was emphasized that relations among the member countries are to be expanded in all fields. Almost all heads of countries were interested to expand their economic cooperation with Afghanistan. Protocols and understandings were signed to form commissions for the assessment of the expansion of cooperation and assistance. [passage omitted]

Dear journalists those were remarks in connection with a number of issues. Now it is your turn to ask questions.

[Announcer] Thanks for the scholarly remarks of the ISA president. Esteemed President, a number of journalists submitted their written questions to the Press Office previously. If you will allow me I will put these written questions to you. The first question is from the BBC's Suzy Price who has asked what urgent aid will come to Afghanistan after the end of the ECO conference.

[Rabbani] A number of countries especially the host country, the Republic of Turkey, promised aid and asked different countries to help Afghanistan especially with food and medicine, and also in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. This help is to be rendered by members of ECO and they asked other countries to cooperate with the Afghan nation. This issue was included in the joint communique.

[Announcer] There is another question by Suzy Price: Will the ECO's aid be rendered under a certain military situation or will it be granted under any fighting conditions?

[Rabbani] For the time being there are no conditions. The Afghan delegation too in its speech asserted that some countries, under the excuse that so long as full security is not restored in Afghaistan, will not send their aid to the war-ridden Afghan nation. They did not carry out their responsibility to humanitarian principles. We emphasized that one factor in the restoration of security in countries such as Afghanistan is the start of reconstruction. When reconstruction starts, it will be one of the factors ensuring security, because some of the people who are now carrying weapons will become busy with work and ensuring their new life as soon as the reconstruction movement starts. And the fighting will stop.

[Announcer] The last question from Suzy Price: She asks the esteemed president your opinion of how much General Dostam has succeeded in bringing the sides concerned closer together?

[Rabbani] Efforts have been made by Gen. Dostam in connection with the problems and lack of security in Kabul. The assessment of the results of the meetings that have taken place is positive. There was a meeting with esteemed brother Mr. Hekmatyar yesterday—Dostam had a meeting with Hekmatyar. We hope that positive efforts by any party will bear positive fruit.

[Announcer] A question from the newspaper of the National Islamic Front [Mahaz-e Meli-ye Eslami]: There are rumors that the state and its opponents are preparing for a renewed military confrontation. Do you predict the start of a new conflagration in Kabul?

[Rabbani] We know that all brothers and all our people in Afghanistan, at the moment, have had enough of the fighting and need security and peace. There is no reason or justification for the fighting to start again. We hope that all groups will make every effort for the consolidation of security and the prevention of a repetition of fighting in Afghanistan.

[Announcer] The next question is from Mr. Wais of AFP. Please tell us about the agreements that have been signed between your country and other ECO members, for instance for food aid, the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and the construction of railway links between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan.

[Rabbani] As I said earlier, meetings took place with heads of different countries. Most of the countries showed serious interest in assistance and cooperation with the Islamic State of Afghanistan. With some of the countries, among them Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan, discussions took place in connection with certain programs, including the building of a highway which will link Tashkent to Karachi via Afghanistan. It was also planned earlier that delegations of the three countries would hold a session before the ECO conference for the comprehensive assessment of their agreements and protocols and for the attainment of understandings and agreements. We hope that in the near future these three countries—Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan—will reach agreement in connection with the the extension of a highway from Tashkent to Karachi via Afghanistan. Turkmenistan too—through the gas pipeline extension via Afghanistan, Afghan gas will be offered to foreign markets; a preliminary understanding was reached among the foreign ministers of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Tukmenistan, and Pakistan. The president of Turkmenistan invited the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to pay a visit on 27 October for final and serious discussion of various issues, among them the extension of gas pipelines via Afghanistan, including the pipeline through which Afghan gas will also be offered to foreign markets. In addition, decisions will be made and agreements reached on other cooperation and bilateral assistance. We had similar conversations with other countries too. We hope that Afghanistan will become an important and major country, a pivot linking countries of the region, especially ECO countries, thanks to the construction of a highway through these countries—the pivot and heart of transport movements.

[Announcer] Mr. Wais has another question: His Excellency Professor Rabbani has made a request about the controlling of the transport of goods by Afghans and a free port in Karachi, in Pakistan.

[Rabbani] Afghanistan is a landlocked country, and landlocked countries generally face a series of problems when exporting domestic products and importing foreign goods. Such countries wish friendly countries which have deep water ports to allow them some kind of rights and concessions. Karachi is an important port for the export and import of Afghan goods, so we would like the friendly and fraternal country of Pakistan to provide facilities in this respect and cooperate. A request has been made. We hope that friendly countries, especially Pakistan, which has rendered historic cooperation with the people of Afghanistan during the resistance and jihad, will cooperate in connection with trade facilities too.

[Announcer] There is another question from the HAFTA NAMA-E KABUL. Since the Jalalabad accord it seems that fighting has not stopped but has occurred in other forms. What measure are envisaged to end the present situation?

[Rabbani] We mentioned previously that, after the Jalalabad agreement, the formation of the government headed by brother Hekmatyar, and the participation of different jehadi groups, there exists no reason or motive for the continuation of fighting and clashes. During the past few weeks there have been some problems and violations; we hope there will be no problems from now on. Contacts and meetings have recently taken place regarding a final cessation of fighting and the ending of all reasons and motives that have now and again led to clashes. We hope that in this connection the government will be able to take effective and resolute measures.

[Announcer] [Name indistinct], the newspaper of Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement), has a couple of questions. First, there have recently been some reports on radio and television [words indistinct] alleging that some Hazara people poison food and so on, and accusing the Hazaras of the poisoning of food. Please state your views in this respect.

[Rabbani] With extreme regret it has to be said that there have been some cases recently of the poisoning of food by some deceived elements. It is to be emphasized, however, that when some members of a national group perpetrate a criminal act, the entire national group cannot be blamed. Our fraternal national group and oppressed people of Hazara are a fraternal, oppressed, mojahed nation. Certainly, when such shameful acts have been committed by deceived elements, all members of the Hazara nationality, like all other national groups of Afghanistan, are against them. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] There is another question from this newspaper. What is the role of Gen. Dostam in the government and Islamic State of Afghanistan?

[Rabbani] We all know that on the basis of its usual policy the Islamic State has always supported the participation of all forces that are present on the scene and all national groups. The participation of a broad base of the people of Afghanistan in the formation of the government is a very successful step and an effective step for the overall security of the country. In the new cabinet too, in the cabinet of Mr. Hekmatyar, efforts have been made in this direction. To ensure security, we hope for the fair participation of all people and all strata, national groups, and forces that are present on the scene. We hope that in the future all of those who are interested in rendering service to their people and nation will take part in the future state and government of Afghanistan. Gen. Dostam is, as we all know, one of the forces present on the scene. We are confident that the cooperation and assistance of Gen. Dostam will be very effective and useful.

[Announcer] This newspaper has another question: If in the future esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud should not be made defense minister, what would your position and reaction be? It should be mentioned that the job of the commission was due to be completed in two months' time but so far even the basic work has not started.

[Rabbani] Before commanders make up their minds we cannot predict what decision they will make. We are confident, however, that jehadi commanders, who have suffered for years in the trenches of jihad, who fought for the establishment of an Islamic state and for the creation of an atmosphere in which a strong and stable government could come into being, will surely make a decision which will be in the interest of peace, in the interest of security, and in the interest of the stability of the Islamic State and which will be the cause of satisfaction for all commanders, big and small, in Afghanistan.

[Announcer] The last question is by Ezidyar from the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY. He notes that the commanders election commission should have completed its work within two months and should have selected the defense and interior ministers through the commanders council. The deadline for this is 26 Saratan [17 July]. However, neither the defense nor interior ministers has been selected thus far. What measures will be taken when in six days [as heard] the two months will have elapsed?

[Rabbani] We hope that the commission for the election of the defense and interior ministers will complete its work quickly. We expect that simultaneously with the appointment of the defense and interior ministers further speedy steps will be taken toward holding general elections in the country so that the people once again can express their will directly through electing the leadership of their country. In connection with the fact that a little time is left for the selection of the country's defense and interior ministers, of course it is possible this period could be extended for some time or some other decision could be made. However, the defense minister and interior minister should be selected through commanders. This is a decision which, like other decisions under which the present cabinet has been formed, stipulates that the selection of the defense and interior ministers through the commanders is a fundamental decision. This decision should be implemented as urgently as possible.

Bangladesh

Parliament Adopts Nuclear Safety Bill

BK1507061893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0548 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Dhaka, July 14 (AFP)—Bangladesh has adopted a nuclear safety bill aimed at protecting its people and environment from the effects of radioactivity, officials said here Thursday [15 July].

Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar piloted the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Bill through parliament's Wednesday session and said it provided measures to ensure appropriate and effective transfer and proper development of nuclear technology imported from developed countries.

The bill gives the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission power to prosecute violators through the courts, with penalties ranging from three to nine years' imprisonment.

The commission would also issue import licenses for nuclear products and monitor aspects of nuclear and radioactive works in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The bill was delayed for more than eight months due to opposition legislators, who called for it to be examined by a select committee.

But Sircar brushed aside opposition criticism, saying that all Bangladeshi scientists were in its favour. The bill was drafted by the scientists themselves.

He said Bangladesh has been witnessing an increase in "uses and misuses" of radioactive materials and nuclear equipment, and the new act would help protect the people and the environment.

General Amnesty for Tribal Rebels Extended to 31 Dec

BK1507070493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1522 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Dhaka, July 14 (AFP)—Bangladesh on Wednesday [14 July] extended until December 31 a general amnesty for tribal rebels fighting for autonomy in the southeastern hill region, official sources here said.

They said the decision came at the fourth meeting between a government team headed by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and a tribal delegation led by Shantu Larma at the southeastern hill district of Khagrachari.

The other major decision included the extension of a shaky ceasefire until October 31 and that the rebels, called Shanti Bahini, would help in the repatriation of Chakma tribal refugees in neighbouring India's Tripura state.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, in a pledge to solve the 18-year-old problem politically, announced a general amnesty soon after she came to power in 1991, but security sources said only a handful of rebels had surrendered so far.

Refugee repatriation was scheduled to start June 8, but the Chakmas refused to return home at the last moment and officials said they did not know when the process would eventually start.

The refugees are demanding the presence of the London-based human rights group Amnesty International, supervision by international observers of the process and resettlement and full guarantees of their safety in writing by the Dhaka government.

The rebels have been fighting a bush war for autonomy and expulsion of Muslim settlers from the three hill districts bordering India and Burma.

The insurgency has so far left more then 2,500 people dead and the Buddhist rebels in recent weeks have attacked Bangladeshi troops deployed in the rugged region.

BSS [Bangladesh news agency] said the next meeting has been set for September 20.

'Concessions' Offered for Refugees' Return

BK1407163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Bangladesh Government has offered more concessions for the Chakma [tribal] refugees to return home. The concessions include enhancement of cash relief, rations, house-building assistance, and sympathetic consideration of reemployment claims. The offer was made by the Bangladesh official committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts during its fourth round of meeting with the political wing of the refugees at the Khagrachari hill town today. The nine-member official team was led by the Bangladesh Communications Minister Mr. Oli Ahmed.

Court Orders Release of Fundamentalist; Tension Mounts

BK1507101893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Dhaka, July 15 (AFP)—Security was tightened Thursday [15 July] in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka as a fundamentalist party warned of consequences if its leader Golam Azam was not released immediately as stated in a court order. Security sources said police were posted in some "sensitive" areas to thwart any possible trouble linked to Azam's release as tension mounted in the afternoon.

Riot police were posted in the downtown business district Motijheel, around the high-security Dhaka Central Jail, where Azam was being held, and in other parts of the city, witnesses said.

A two-member Bangladeshi High Court bench here Wednesday said in their verdict Azam's detention was "illegal and without lawful authority" and that he be released "immediately if he is not wanted in any other case," the official BSS news agency reported.

Meanwhile Thursday, the government petitioned the High Court appealing for a stay of Azam's release order, but the judge refused, legal sources said.

On Wednesday, another court also refused a government plea for stay of the order until Monday.

Witnesses said a large number of Azam's supporters had converged around the jail to welcome their leader as riot police kept a close watch.

"Many of the supporters are angry because of the delay in Azam's release, but so far there has been no violence," a witness said.

The fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party's working committee in an emergency meeting welcoming the court order late Wednesday said: "If the government bypassed the court order and resorted to any other means to keep Azam behind the bars it would be an act of cruelty against him."

"Consequences of such acts are not good," it warned.

Legal sources said he was unlikely to be released Thursday as his detention was linked to a citizenship case and that preparing release papers would take time, but unconfirmed reports said Jamaat had already prepared most of the required papers.

One official source said Thursday if Azam was freed he could be arrested again under the tough Special Powers Act of 1974, which gives the government the power to detain anyone without giving a reason.

Azam, 71, the chief of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party, was arrested last year for violating Bangladesh's Foreigners Act by becoming the chief of a political party despite being a citizen of Pakistan. But in April, the High Court in a landmark verdict restored Azam's citizenship, cancelled by the post-independence government of president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for allegedly collaborating with Pakistani army during Bangladesh's 1971 independence war. Using a Pakistani passport, he returned to Bangladesh in 1978 to visit his ailing mother and has stayed.

A court is scheduled to hear a government petition for the stay of execution of the citizenship verdict July 25.

The main opposition Awami League and the Committee Against Butchers and Collaborators of the 1971 war have demanded that Azam be tried for crimes allegedly committed during the nine-month war.

The government has said Azam would be tried according to the laws of the land, but did not specify a time frame or under what law.

Jamaat initially helped Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to form her government, although her ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party has now a simple majority in the 330-member national parliament.

Jamaat, with 20 seats, is the fourth largest party in the parliament.

Minister on Resolving Farakka Dam Issue With India

BK1407154793 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Information Minister Najmul Huda has reaffirmed his government's commitment to resolve the Farakka [site of dam over the Ganges River] issue with India under the spirit of good-neighborliness. He was inaugurating a three-day photo exhibition and seminar entitled the Farakka Issue and Today's Bangladesh at the National Press Club in Dhaka today. Barrister Huda said that Bangladesh wants a solution of the Farakka issue with India through bilateral negotiations without compromising the country's interests. In this context, he referred to the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao during the last summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC]. He said that Begum Zia raised the issue with Rao as there was no scope for raising bilateral issues at the SAARC summit.

Describing Farakka as a question central to the country's existence, the information minister said that there will be no other alternative but to raise the issue at an international forum if it cannot be resolved bilaterally. He said that the nationalist government under the bold leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia will fulfill its pledge to establish a prosperous country for the 120 million people.

India

Minister Comments on Ties With Central Asian States

BK1407133293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has expressed satisfaction at India's relations with Central Asian republics. He was presiding over the interministerial coordination committee meeting in New Delhi today. Mr. Singh said both sides are giving priority to areas like science and technology, commerce, technical cooperation, information and cultural exchanges. There was a discussion on credit lines that are to be extended to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Agreement Signed With Vietnam on Oil, Gas Cooperation

BK1507043993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] India and Vietnam have agreed to widen their cooperation in oil and natural gas. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the Vietnamese Petroleum Institute in Hanoi.

Commentary Analyzes Outcome of Tokyo G-7 Summit

BK1407131293 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Commentary by Harish A.N. Das, chief editor of the CONTINENTAL FEATURE SERVICE: "Tokyo Summit of G-7 and Third World"]

[Text] Now that the seven leading industrial countries—the USA, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, and Canada—have concluded their 19th annual deliberations at Tokyo, we must see how their decisions affect both directly and indirectly the developing countries like India. The three-day summit concentrated primarily on both political and economic issues that affect the G-7.

The Tokyo summit was able to achieve a breakthrough in world trade talks by negotiating a package of tariff cuts on a broad range of manufactured goods. Described as the biggest tariff cut in history, the trade package called for deduction, and in some cases elimination, of duties on man-made goods from ceramics and glass to medical and construction equipment. This will help boost world trade talks known as Uruguay Round to be successfully relaunched. The 114-nation Uruguay Round sponsored by the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is the most ambitious effort ever to revamp the world trading system. It would lower trade barriers in more than a dozen areas, including agriculture, textiles, manufactured goods, and financial services.

For India, it would have been a real victory if the Tokyo summit could bring around the USA and accept deep cuts in textile duties. The agreement to scrap tariffs entirely on pharmaceuticals, construction equipment, medical equipment, and beer would help more the developed rather than developing countries. Third World is disappointed as it was expecting mention in the economic communique its demand for the equitable treatment in this Group-7-dominated global economy. This demand was voiced by the Indian finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in a recent G-15 memorandum to the Japanese prime minister and was followed by nonaligned memo given by the Indonesian president, Mr. Suharto.

Making balanced review of the world economy in the communique, the G-7 leaders committed themselves to accelerate global economic growth and lend the IMF enhanced structural adjustment facility to the poorer countries desiring special attention. For the heavily indebted countries, the communique invited the Paris Club to continue reviewing the question of debt relief keeping in view their policy reforms and performances.

The discussion on the expansion of the UN Security Council also reflected the views of the developing countries, including India. India, Indonesia, and many other countries have demanded democratization of UN Security Council. If the strength of permanent members of the Security Council is not increased and the USA is allowed to hijack, it would lose its identity.

Similarly, the views of the developing countries, especially those of India, against indefinite extension of NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] was well reflected by Japan. It is a decision that has far-reaching consequences for nuclear (?policies) in Asia and the world. India has on various occasions brought out the discriminatory character of the present treaty and has advocated universal application of the NPT regime. Although at Munich in 1992, Japan had favored indefinite extension of NPT, but now Tokyo has shown a great concern to the Chinese nuclear monopoly in Asia. In fact, both India and Japan have been drawing the world attention toward the ever expanding Chinese nuclear missiles capabilities and the growing strategic assertiveness of Beijing. China has also acquired advanced nuclear and missile technologies from Russia and passed them on to Iran and Pakistan. Despite being a party to the NPT, Japan was prudent enough to create the technological basis for the nuclear weapon option. Its massive civil nuclear power program has given it access to tons of plutonium and has also developed its space-launched capabilities, creating potential for missile development. Similarly, condemnation of the state-sponsored terrorism would go a long way in meeting the demand of countries like India and Egypt.

Iran

Khamene'i Says U.S. 'Animosity' Doomed to Defeat

LD1407124093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1015 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to "a large number of people from the various strata of the Hezbollah community" in Tehran on 14 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] If morality reigns over a society, then social justice will materialize, society will prosper, and men will feel as though they are living in a paradise while still living on earth. When I look at the world as a whole, I see that the bulk of the tragedies affecting mankind have their root in adverse morality and corruption which are present in the ethics of some people. All this injustice which takes place in the world today [pauses]...of course, we are not overlooking political factors. Economic and political factors have of course their own place. However, in the root and the base of all these tragedies we find a moral factor, and an adverse morality.

My belief is that it is incorrect education and ethics that have inflicted great tragedies on some nations of the contemporary world. Just look at Bosnia-Herzegovina and all these oppressed Muslim people who are being massacred in the heart of Europe, while new tragedies befall them on a daily basis. If some of the officials of the arrogant powers had not lied, then the Bosnian situation would not have been like what it is today. Corrupt morality, hypocrisy, deceit [pauses].... It has now been a year and few months that these helpless and oppressed people have been left on their own to receive ceaseless blows delivered by a wild, racist, and fascist bunch, that is, the Serbs. By resorting to words and phrases, they are trying to keep people's minds busy. All these have their roots in corrupt ethics.

The arrogant system of morality, which the present regime of the United States embraces, is something that is fundamentally rooted in moral issues. The concept of arrogance itself is a moral issue, emanating from a corrupted morality. There is no justice in it. If they knew justice, fairness, and humanity, then they would not behave like this toward the other nations of the world.

See what they are doing to the people in Somalia now. Their, that is, the Americans', logic is this: Our interests dictate that we should enter that country. One should ask them: Are you fair and generous enough to confess that other nations should protect their own interests too, or not? You are saying: Our interests dictate that we must have a military presence there. But what about the interests of the people of Somalia? What do the interests of another nation mean, which you employ every means to crush, dictate? Is it only your interests that deserve respect and protection? Are other nations' interests not worthy of respect?

What are you doing in the Persian Gulf, sir? You say: We are protecting our interests here. What happens when your interests clash with the interests of the nations in the Persian Gulf? Why do your interests have precedence over the interests of the Persian Gulf nations? Why are you saying that your interests must be taken note of in absolute terms, no matter if the interests of other nations are trampled on and violated? Why are you saying this? This is a moral question. This is the arrogant mentality. This is the same corrupt basis of attitude that compels a government, a political regime to resort to such tyranny, oppression, aggression, inhumanity, and injustice. This is a moral issue.

The U.S. regime today is an immoral regime. They resort to every crafty and sinister means against the Islamic Republic of Iran. When they are asked: Sir, why are you doing this? They say: We intend to put pressure on the Iranian nation, to put pressure on the Iranian nation. You see what they say. They clearly express the corrupt secret desire of their hearts today.

During the previous American Administration, the Bush administration, since he pretended that the United States likes the Iranian nation and would like to have relations with Iran and so forth, there were some people in our country who, without any ill-intentions and in all earnestness, believed this and thought that perhaps the Americans were giving up following the wrong and crooked path they were treading and that perhaps they were regretting the fact that they had been so hostile and mean in their behavior toward Iran. They realized perhaps that they should reconcile themselves with the revolution and the nation of Iran. Even so, there were some alert and careful individuals who knew at that same time that the the Americans were lying. But the latter talked in such a way as to make some people believe that the Americans had given up their enmity, their spite and abject behavior toward the Iranian nation and the Islamic revolution.

Those Americans who are now in power are now revealing their inner feelings and are coming up with the truth through their impudent and abject remarks. They are taking up positions quite explicitly against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the people of Iran. They say that they want to work and struggle against Iran. The truth has been revealed and it has become clear that those who were saying differeent things were hypocrites. Some people would say: Look sir, they are inexperienced, naive and simpleminded to be talking like this. Fine, they are of course inexperienced; they are simpleminded and politically primitive. This is quite evident from what they do. But this is exactly why they cannot hide or conceal the depths of their true nature. Their behavior has become such that today, every member of the Iranian nation is chanting the slogan: Death to America.

Due to their simplemindedness, some people may have been hesitant during the rule of the previous American regime. But today everyone is aware of the truth. The Iranian nation senses this animosity. However, the simplemindedness and naivety of the present American officials becomes clear when we consider that they have failed to understand that their evil acts against the great, brave, and selfless nation of Iran, and against this country which enjoys such a spiritual might, have no effect whatsoever, except to bring disgrace upon themselves.

The Iranian nation will not be defeated by such things. At one time there were two superpowers in the world who had put the whole globe under their influence. Both these superpowers joined hands to cooperate in their antagonism against the Islamic Republic. They forced a government such as the Ba'thist regime of Iraq to rely on their support to bring all kinds of pressures upon our nation. You saw that the great Iranian nation gained more and more strength, became more proud and more decisive and resistant as the time went by.

How can it be possible that they should confront our great and faithful nation and not suffer defeat? Whatever they do will lead to their own loss and defeat. We will follow the path of Islam with strength, as we have been taught by the revolution and the imam. [crowd chants slogans supporting Khamene'i and condemning America, Israel, and counterrevolutionaries]

Praise be to God, as time has progressed, the integrity of the Islamic Republic has been enhanced in the world. Today, the Iranian nation, government, president, combatants, youth, and men and women stand in the world with their heads held high. The Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the world, praise be to God, are of a solid nature. Thanks to God, we have solid and strong relations with Europe, Africa, and all the countries of the world. The evil powers and their ill wishes cannot cause any trouble for the Islamic Republic.

The fundamental issue is that our honorable nation should preserve this coherence and unity, and this adherence to the path of God, with as much strength as today. [passage omitted]

Velayati, Russian Deputy Minister Discuss Bosnia

LD1407173893 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Wednesday [14 July] said the "irresponsible and negative" stands of some Western countries towards despatch of forces by Muslim countries to Bosnia-Herzegovina meant sanctioning the carnage of Bosnian Muslims.

Meeting with visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, Velayati also maintained that under present conditions the U.N. peace-keeping forces were not efficient enough to prevent aggression.

"Forces who are committed to the words and spirit of United Nations statements must undertake this sacred task," Velayati pointed out.

He castigated those Westerners who were either unwilling to send troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina or their presence there was not intended to implement U.N. resolutions for their opposition to a decision taken by the Organization of the Islamic Conference to defend Bosnian people. This will damage the credibility of the United Nations as a peace keeping organization, Velayati cautioned and said the U.N. should clearly announce criteria necessary for the presence of peace keepers in Bosnia so that the fate of a country may not be affected by political goals.

The foreign minister also voiced the concern of the Muslim world about the continued genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serbs and about the arms embargo and pressure placed on them with an aim of partitioning that republic.

Elsewhere in the talks, Velayati reminded the importance of Tehran-Moscow relations which he described as deep-rooted and based on good neighborliness.

The Russian deputy foreign minister, pointing to the Bosnian issue, said despite all measures taken so far in this regard it was the U.N. secretary general who should make the final decision. He also said that both Tehran and Moscow should take new initiatives to expand mutual relations at regional levels.

Russia attaches great importance to the establishment of the Caspian Sea littoral states cooperation organization and is ready to strengthen it, the Russian official said.

Kunadze Urges Expanded Ties

LD1407175793 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—Visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze on Wednesday [14 July] called for expansion of Tehran-Moscow relations in areas of mutual interest.

Talking with his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Va'ezi, the Russian official called for broadening cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states and speeding up arrangements made for the formation of an organization for cooperation among the said countries. He also underlined the importance of cooperation and exchange of views between the two countries for maintenance of peace and security in the region.

Va'ezi, too, underscored the significance of relations between the two neighboring countries and of continuation of consultations between Iranian and Russian officials. He described the formation of the Caspian Sea Littoral States Cooperation Organization as a step towards achieving their common goals. He expressed hope that such cooperation would be effective in the development of the region.

Commentaries Discuss ICO Decision on Force for Bosnia

More Effective Muslim Role Needed

NC1407085793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Station commentary from News Commentaries Group]

[Text] A consensus was achieved during the two-day session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Islamabad on providing protection for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina by sending troops to that country.

It is being said that there will be more than 7,600 troops. The session of the foreign ministers of 16 Islamic countries in Islamabad, which will conclude deliberations today, is being convened as the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina continue to be subjected to heavy attacks by the Serbs. Not only has the United Nations not used its resources to halt the inhuman atrocities of the Serbs, it has also sought to shrug off its responsibility for sending foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals, and for safeguarding the safe havens.

In fact, despite the UN officials' excuses that the discrepancies in their relief operations are due to limited resources and the restricted participation of countries, it may be noted that the Islamic countries have repeatedly requested the United Nations to allow them to provide their forces and other services to carry out assistance missions. However, the United Nations has refrained from accepting their requests.

Even though some cities and populous areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina have been declared safe zones by the UN Security Council, in practice, support and protection for the women, children, and civilians of these areas against the savage attacks by the Serbs are not forthcoming. The main motivating factor for the convocation of the session of ICO foreign ministers of 16 Islamic countries—convened in Islamabad with the presence of UN representatives—is the participation of Muslim countries in covering the expenses and providing the necessary forces to protect the lives and property of the defenseless Muslims of Bosnia- Herzegovina in the face of the brutal attacks by the Serb aggressors.

Obviously, when the obstacles are removed from the path, the Islamic countries can participate in a more effective manner in the UN relief operations and can also intervene effectively to prevent the continued inhuman crimes of the Serbs, they will be able to muster greater resources for this purpose.

So far, more than 200,000 Bosnian civilians have been killed as a result of the war, massacres, imprisonment, hunger, cold, and disease, and 1.5 million have been rendered homeless. Similarly, a large number of civic and residential installations including 800 mosques have been destroyed, and living conditions have become very difficult. Despite this state of affairs, the UN Security Council and other international organizations under the influence of Western countries have prevented the arming of the Bosnian Muslims for the defense of their lives and property. The convocation of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria, which is only a short distance from Bosnia-Herzegovina, did not do anything to mitigate the suffering of the Bosnian Muslims, or to focus on their human rights, despite the pompous support for human rights professed by the Western leaders.

In any case, the decision at the session of foreign ministers from 16 Islamic countries on sending forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina under UN supervision to safeguard the peace zones can be considered only a small step for greater and more effective participation by Muslims in the defense of the existence and rights of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Decision Within UN Framework

LD1407212293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The emergency session of the foreign ministers and delegations chiefs of 16 member states of the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, concluded in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad yesterday by approving an executive plan for the dispatch of troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the concluding statement of this session the ICO members requested the UN Security Council and secretary general to adopt urgent measures to check the grave situation faced by Bosnia- Herzegovina. They also asked the UN authorities to check the aggression of the Serbs and Croats by issuing a resolution guaranteeing the establishment of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

These countries, referring to the Security Council's inability to firmly deal with the aggressive acts of the Serbs in Bosnia, requested in the concluding statement of the Islamabad session to lift the unjust arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Islamabad session, which was held in an atmosphere free from clamor and customary slogans, for the first time since the start of the bloody war in Bosnia-Herzegovina succeeded in presenting a practical plan within the UN framework in taking a move for aiding the Bosnian Muslims. In the practical and executive plan presented by the 16 Islamic states which participated in the Islamabad session, the composition of at least 7,600 troops from seven Islamic countries to be deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina for protecting the six secure regions named by the UN has been determined. However, the participants in this session announced their readiness to send 16,000 troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina. This far exceeds the number requested by the UN secretary general for dispatch to Bosnia. Based on the ICO executive plan Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs and the foreign ministers of Turkey and Senegal, as well as the ICO secretary general have been assigned the task of coordinating the affairs and contacting the UN Security Council for the dispatch of the peacekeepers to Bosnia.

The decisions of the extraordinary session of the ICO, held in Islamabad, have been termed as important by political circles and analysts of Bosnian affairs. It is said that since the role of each country in this plan has been stressed as a practical move within the UN framework it can be carried out without any problem. Despite this, one should not ignore the UN's guiding role in the degree of success of this plan. This is because the experience on enforcing earlier resolutions, in whose drafting a number of states have played a role, shows weak performance of the UN in practice in this regard. This type of approach has, in many cases, affected the necessary efficiency of the UN Charter in its capacity as a successful means of protecting the rights of countries in the face of an aggression.

Indisputably the speedy pace of events in Bosnia-Herzegovina now calls for greater action on the part of all international circles and countries desirous of peace and security in the region. At this sensitive juncture Islamic states certainly shoulder a very important duty toward the Bosnian Muslims.

The Bosnian Muslims are currently under siege and they are deprived of even the basic necessities for livelihood, such as water, food, clothing, and medicine. Regrettably, apart from the criminals there are also involved some other individuals in these offenses, and they, on account of their continuing silence, have contributed to the perpetration of the crimes.

Obviously in the event this situation continues further, the results of this session, as well as other efforts by international circles, will prove encouraging solely on paper and within the statements. However, in the absence of a serious move from the UN and its Security Council, it will probably be hard to prevent such crimes and to protect the Bosnian Muslims in future despite the adoption of moral and humanitarian measures.

Bosnian Diplomat Discusses Lack of Assistance

NC1407121093 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jun 93 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with the Bosnian Ambassador to Iran Umar Bahman by an unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [KEYHAN] Under the Bosnian Constitution, could an agreement be signed on behalf of the president? Or is the president the only one so authorized?

[Bahman] Since crisis conditions, a war, prevail, under the Constitution, only the president can sign an agreement.

[KEYHAN] What will be the consequences of the Serbs' plan to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina and create a three-tier federation?

[Bahman] Bosnia-Herzegovina is accepted by the international community and has been recognized by 40 countries. It is a member of the United Nations and has representatives there. Some countries, such as France and Britain, support partitioning Bosnia-Herzegovina, but, since these countries have already recognized

Bosnia-Herzegovina officially, they cannot fragment the country, so they seek legal channels to do so. They want to create three units under a confederation so that, initially, the people can live together and can vote in the units in which they reside. But their aim is to create a Bosnia-Herzegovina that will not be very strong or firm.

[KEYHAN] What is the EC viewpoint on the crisis?

[Bahman] They want the problem to be solved, but with a solution favoring the Serbs, as they have all the resources in their hands. They are being assisted by the Russians and the Romanians and they have the latest military equipment at their disposal. In the arms embargo, the Muslims are the only ones to lose. The United States and Britain are asking the international community to lift the embargo, but the excuse that this will prolong the war is a unilateral judgment, as it only harms the Muslims. This means only that the Muslims have no right to defend themselves.

[KEYHAN] What is the country's main problem or the thinking that prevents Islam from reaching the Muslims? [sentence as published]

[Bahman] First, the Serbs are extremely racist and nationalistic. Then, there are the Russians, who wish to retain access to the Adriatic by way of Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Those who are responsible have considerable influence in Britain and France.

[KEYHAN] The United States earlier announced it was prepared to dispatch military forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina to end the conflict. But forces were sent to Somalia instead. What is your analysis of this issue?

[Bahman] The United States does not wish to enter into the Bosnian crisis; it is a mere spectator.

[KEYHAN] Why doesn't the United States intervene?

[Bahman] The United States only provides verbal support to Bosnia-Herzegovina; it doesn't practice it. It merely wants to show it is on the side of those who are right. Efforts are made to show that the Westerners with whom we have relations are providing assistance, but, since it is a European issue, they approach it as an internal issue in which the United States should not intervene.

[KEYHAN] Why did it intervene in Africa?

[Bahman] That is near their oil transport routes.

[KEYHAN] It is the Security Council's duty to protect the security of all its members equally; it should not discriminate among them. We saw the Security Council react strongly to the occupation of Kuwait and Somalia, but it does not even send forces to assist Bosnia-Herzegovina. Why?

[Bahman] They have interests in Somalia and Kuwait, but not in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Most notably, the United States does not. There is no oil here, so the United Nations provided no assistance.

You have seen that the Russians and the United States wield influence in the Security Council and resolutions are passed that the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina should end and peace should be established. At the same time, their foreign ministers meet and present other plans to dismember Bosnia- Herzegovina.

The crisis has raged in Bosnia-Herzegovina for 14 to 15 months, which shows that the UN's credibility has dropped considerably. It transpires that there are still some who invoke the law of the jungle, that is, the strong can eliminate the weak.

[KEYHAN] What do you expect from the Islamic countries?

[Bahman] They have not given a proper account of themselves. Most are content with verbiage and there is no sign of any practical measures. The filthiest action on Bosnia-Herzegovina has been taken by France and Britain. The Islamic countries should have responded to them with economic pressures, one of which would have been an oil embargo. According to reports, some Islamic countries have severed relations with Serbs, but other countries, such as Egypt, have very cordial relations with the Serbs. This is why the Egyptian Government does not permit the dispatch of assistance to Bosnian Muslims. This is what the Egyptian Government has done. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] What is the solution to the Bosnian crisis?

[Bahman] There are many solutions, but if only the UN resolutions are implemented, the problem would be solved. The problem here is the solution. The Serbs and Croats do what they want and there is no one to stop them. The Serbs and Croats have the backing of Britain, France, and the Russians. Any resolution signed at the United Nations is rendered ineffective by these three. There is evidence to prove that Britain, France, and Russia have given the Serbs free rein to do as they please and have assured them this will cause them no problems with the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Trade Officials Views Growing Links With Germany

LD1407211593 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—The value of Iranian non-oil exports to Germany reached an unprecedented one billion marks in 1992.

Head of the board of directors of the Irano-German Chambers of Commerce, Botagh Khanbodaghi, and general manager of the chamber, Marc Landau, said today that the volume of Iran-Germany trade reached 9.1 billion marks within the same period, making Germany once again the major Iranian trade partner. They said in an interview with IRNA that all German well-established banks have extended repayment of Iran's outstanding 1.6-billion-mark debt for another one-year.

Khanbodaghi made the remarks with reference to the imminent visit to Tehran of the chief executive of the German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHT), Dr. Franz Schoser. Schoser is due here on Saturday on an official three-day visit heading a ranking delegation due to hold talks with the Iranian economic and trade officials.

Pointing to Iran's export of non-oil commodities to Germany, he said that its value exceeding one billion marks was indicative of the expansion of the two countries cooperation in the fields of industry and trade. He said that Iranian industrialists can participate in international fairs and market their goods so that they would become successful in exporting of non-oil commodities.

Referring to the successful implementation of the single-rate-of- exchange system and to gradual cutting of subsidies by the Iranian Government, he proposed that industrial units in Iran offer their goods, under a sound management and without taking advantage of subsidies, to the international markets. He said that Idem factory in Tabriz (East Azerbaijan) has succeeded in exporting its products, worth 2.5 million marks, to Germany following the implementation of the single-parity-rate system.

"The German market is eager to purchase all varieties of Iranian fruits at whatever possible volume. But due to special regulations set by the Common Market, this has not been realized," Khanbodaghi said. He expressed hope that German officials could promote commercial ties between the two countries through removing trade barriers.

Economic Official Visits Malaysia, Invites Investment

LD1407101793 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 14, IRNA—Iran has invited foreign investors, including [those] from Malaysia, to take part in its second airline project, with the aim to promote tourism in Islamic historical and holy sites.

Iranian Deputy Minister for Economics and International Affairs 'Ali Shams Ardekani said he had discussed the matter with interested parties in Malaysia and hoped the project would materialize in the near future. He said his delegation had discussed the matter with Malaysia's second airline.

Malaysia airlines, Mofaz Air, Hicom BHD., Pelangi Air and Malaysian Helicopter Services are companies linked to Malaysia's second air carrier.

Malaysia has reportedly agreed to enter into a joint venture to undertake flights between Kuala Lumpur and Tehran and other parts of Central Asia. Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir had also proposed a joint approach to promote these places of interest.

Ardekani, who is on a one-week visit to Malaysia, told a news conference Tuesday night before leaving for home that Iran's second airline will be privately operated. He said that the setting up of a second Malaysia airline would also encourage more people to visit Iranian cities with rich Islamic architecture. He said Iran enjoys high tourism potential. The country hopes to attract more tourists, especially Muslims who go to perform their hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

On Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flights to Tehran, Ardekani said that though MAS had landing rights there, there was no service now, probably because the passenger response was not encouraging. "More Iranians are coming as tourists to Malaysia now, but not the other way round," he added.

On bilateral banking cooperation, Ardekani said that the Iranian National Bank governor will be in Malaysia next week and hopes to hold talks with his Malaysian counterpart to firm up a bilateral payment arrangement (BPA), which will also involve both countries' commercial banks and Islamic banking system.

Ardekani said Iran had offered to send experts to extract marble stones in northeastern Malaysia's state of Terengganu without using the conventional explosion method. Several Malaysian companies, including Malaysia Mining Corporation and firms in Terengganu are keen to tap Iranian expertise in quarrying for marble.

On the oil industry, he said Malaysian state-owned oil company, Petronas, was at present buying some 15,000 barrels of oil a day from Iran.

Ardekani, who is also president of the Qeshm free trade zone, said that while here he had managed to finalize a joint venture agreement for a four-star hotel project on Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf. A Malaysia public listed company, Ekran Berhad, is a major developer of the island. Ekran's investment in the first phase of the project is dlrs. 20 million. However, he declined to reveal the equity participation of the parties in the project. The hotel will be operational by November. He said the hotel is the first in the series of joint ventures that Iran and Malaysia plan to set up.

During his stay here, Ardekani had met several prominent figures, including the economic adviser to the Malaysian Government Daim Zainuddin and Petronas Chairman Basir Ismail.

Government Releases Last Batch of Iraqi Troops

LD1407183093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] In a humanitarian gesture, Iran today released the last batch of Iraqi troops who crossed the border into Iran during the Persian Gulf war and handed them over to Iraqi authorities.

At noon today, 459 Iraqi military personnel returned home via the Khosravi border post. Government representatives from Iran and Iraq were present at the border post. According to an informed source from our country's special commission for prisoners of war, the action was taken to prove Iran's good will and in the hope of a reciprocal action by the Iraqi Government in freeing the rest of the Iranian prisoners of war who are still in Iraq.

Despite claims made by Iraqi officials, who say that there are no Iranian prisoners of war left in Iraq, reports indicate that Iraq does still hold a significant number of Iranian prisoners of war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Notes Shortage of Medicines

LD1407124493 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—The First International Congress on Medical Ethics opened here Wednesday [14 July] with a speech of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his speech to some 1,200 Iranian and foreign participants the president said observing and respecting medical ethics was not only the moral obligation of physicians but that of all medical staff.

Referring to shortage of certain items of medicine in the country, the president said although the administration has provided as much as 500 million dollars for supplying medicines, shortage of medicines is still a problem. One of the reasons for the shortage, he added, is non-observance of medical ethics.

Also addressing the congress, Health Minister Reza Malekzadeh, stressed on observing medical ethics by the physicians and said that medical staff must be the upholder of the banner of ethics and spirituality.

Out of the 300 papers delivered to the Secretariat of the congress 100 have been approved. The congress will deal with varierty of issues including medical ethics and transplant.

Pakistan

AFP Reports Armed Troops Moving Into Islamabad

BK1507002093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1851 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Islamabad, July 14 (AFP)—Armed troops moved into the federal capital late Wednesday [14 July] as the country's political crisis worsened with the opposition's threat to besiege Islamabad to force Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to resign, eyewitnesses said.

Several trucks were seen patrolling in the boulevard area close to the presidency, the prime minister's house and the parliament building, all located in the same area, they said.

Soldiers carrying light weapons were also seen heading towards the diplomatic enclave where foreign missions are housed.

Witnesses also reported paramilitary Frontier Constabulary troops in Islamabad and its outskirts.

The opposition, led by former premier Benazir Bhutto, plans to lay siege to the capital Friday with some 500,000 marchers to press Sharif to resign and announce new elections.

The planned march also comes amid a deepening power struggle between Sharif and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, prompted earlier this year by Sharif's attempt to reduce the president's powers.

Military sources had earlier said the Army would remain within the constitution if a request was made to deploy troops to safeguard Islamabad.

The Army has in the past staged coups to take power.

Sharif Confident of Failure of Long March

BK1507030693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Talking informally to newsmen yesterday, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif expressed confidence that the opposition's long march will fail like their similar efforts last November. He regrets that the Punjab administration is spending millions of rupees on advertisements and arrangements for the so-called long march of the opposition, which is trying to storm the federal capital. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the people have no interest in the march and are capable of understanding the reason behind this long march.

Interior Minister Meets Army Leaders on Long March

BK1507110293 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Jul 93 p 16

[Text] Islamabad, July 14—Interior Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Wednesday [14 July] held a meeting with the top military brass to seek army's help regarding opposition's call for long march on the Federal Capital on Friday.

The meeting, held at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, was also attended by Interior Secretary Jamshed Burki and Inspector General of Police Islamabad, informed sources told DAWN.

No official word came out about the deliberations of the meeting but sources claimed that it resolved to deploy troops to protect important and sensitive installations in Islamabad.

Sources said the Federal government had decided to follow the strategy it had adopted during the previous long march of the Opposition held in November but with a few alterations. They, however, were unable to explain as to what those "alterations" were.

Last year the government had (?averted) the Opposition long march by heavy use of tear-gas shells and baton charge in and around the Capital.

Sources said since the Federal government was aware that this time the Punjab Constabulary jawans [soldiers] would not be at its disposal because the Punjab Chief Minister was himself on the other side of the line, it was mobilising all other resources to stop the march from entering the city.

They, however, claimed that the Frontier Constabulary would take control of the Federal Capital on Friday to avert any untoward situation as a consequence of the long march.

Sources said the Federal government has already imposed Section 144 in the Capital area as a first step to deal with the march.

Punjab Declines To Deploy Constabulary in Islamabad

BK1407130393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Jul 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—The Punjab government has declined the centre's request for the deployment of Punjab Constabulary (PC) in Islamabad for security purposes.

The federal govt requested the provincial govt to send 100 platoons of PC, along with 100 policewomen, for their deployment on coming Friday, when the APC [All Party Conference]-called long march will storm Islamabad in protest against the Nawaz administration. One platoon of PC comprises 25 jawans [soliders].

In a related development, the Islamabad administration has decided to enforce security from today. "Guards on all sensitive places and entry points will be beefed up from Wednesday, 48 hours before the march," said sources in the Islamabad administration.

The decision of disallowing marchers to enter Islamabad has already been made. Consultations at the top are still on to handle the situation. A cabinet meeting will once again discuss the matter today and finalise the security arrangements for Friday.

The government has requested for another 700 jawans of Frontier Corps and 40 platoons of Frontier Constabulary. One platoon of Frontier Constabulary comprises 40 jawans. The jawans of Frontier Corps and platoons of Fronter Constabulary will be arriving here tomorrow.

However, the govt has shown no interest to call in the Rangers for their deployment in the capital because of various complications.

PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL] adds: Talking to a delegation of journalists from Denainar Manzoor Wattoo said in Lahore that long march had been planned to dislodge the federal govt. He said all barriers and hurdles stuck up by the federal government to check the long march would be removed with full force. He said the centre had plunged the country into chaos and utter confusion through its illegal, unconstitutional and undemocratic policies.

Bhutto Denies Claiming President's Support for March

BK1407115793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Jul 93 p 12

[Text] Lahore, July 13—Ms Benazir Bhutto in a communication addressed to Ch [Chaudhry] Shujaat Hussain, Federal Interior Minister, has contended that the planned long march is meant to demonstrate peacefully the will of the nation to secure elections.

She said she was shocked at his statement alleging that she had claimed the support of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for the long march.

Benazir Bhutto maintained that the opposition had been forced to announce the long march because the government was not prepared to enter into meaningful dialogue. The communication reads: "I was shocked to see your statement in the newspapers alleging that I had claimed the support of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for the long march being organised by the combined opposition. As Interior Minister you must be aware that I made no such claim and your insistence on making false attribution to the Leader of the Opposition can only be intepreted as a deliberate attempt at misleading the public.

"During my last meeting with the President I discussed the grave political crisis which has engulfed the country. I proposed to him, as I had proposed to the Prime Minister, the holding of tripartite talks between the President, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. The proposal remains, in my view, a practical means of defusing tension. I had also urged the President to invoke provisions of the constitution to ensure immediate free and fair elections. There is no question of my discussing the opposition's strategy (including the long march) with the President.

"Unfortunately, the Prime Minister has failed to respond positively to my proposal. Soon after the proposal was made, the Speaker of the National Assembly forwarded a so-called reference to the Chief Election Commissioner against 29 opposition members of the National Assembly. Considering that he had not forwarded similar references against government members in the past, his action could only be interpreted as an act of hostility against the opposition. Furthermore, a sustained campaign of disinformation has also been unleashed against us of which your above cited statement is just one part.

"The manner in which the resolution seeking to deprive Punjab of its provincial autonomy was bulldozed through parliament and the subsequent attempted takeover of the province by force had already created grave doubts in our minds about the government's intentions. The blatant misuse of the media to spread absolute lies about the opposition's true stance confirms the view that the government is not serious about resolving the political crisis through dialogue.

"The government's disinformation campaign not only links the opposition with the President, it also attempts to suggest that the opposition does not respect national institutions, especially the judiciary. The fact is that no one is more conscious than myself of the presence of truly noble and honourable judges who have in the past resisted pressures and inducements and have refused to give verdicts suiting a particular group or clique. You might recall how the Supreme Court's full bench of nine judges had to be reduced to seven before confirmation could be obtained of the decision to execute my father, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Even then only four judges acquiesced to confirm the decision, showing that an overwhelming majority of judges remained committed to upholding the fundamental principles of law and justice. It should be clear to all that critical evaluation of any legal decision cannot be construed as criticism of an institution. Controversial decisions which aggravate further a grave national crisis do more to undermine the prestige of the judiciary than any statements by opposition politicians. Yet the government's propaganda machine continues to put words in our mouths and tries to mislead the public through statements such as yours.

"I urge you to refrain from mendacious statements and suggest you counsel your colleagues to do the same. The opposition has been forced to announce plans for the long march by the stubborn refusal of the government to enter into a meaningful dialogue. The only solution to the present stalemate is the immediate holding of free and fair elections so the people can give their judgment. The planned long march is meant to demonstrate peacefully the will of the nation to secure elections and to reject the distractions being created by the government. Since you and your colleagues seem unwilling to hear the voice of the opposition, you will now have to listen to the voice of the people directly through the peaceful long march.

"I look forward to a retraction by you of the patently absurd allegations against the opposition. Even if you fail to do so, truth will prevail."

JUP Delegation Assures Sharif of Full Support

BK1407151593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] A 17-member delegation of JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i- Pakistan] led by the federal minister for religious and minority affairs, Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad today. Talking to the delegation, the prime minister said he had always kept the national interest above everything else while contesting [as heard] national matters. He said the tendency of creating artificial crisis should be eschewed and energies of the nation diverted toward constructive channels to make the country prosperous and strong. The prime minister highly appreciated the role of ulema and mashaikh [religious scholars] in support of the democratic institutions and enforcement of the Islamic way of life. He said his government is fully committed to the supremacy of the holy Koran and sunnah [traditions of the prophet] as guiding principles of nation's life.

The delegation assured the prime minister of their full support to his policies for the betterment of the common man. They informed the prime minister that distribution of land among landless haris [peasants] in Sindh has been widely welcomed. In view of unanimity of views between the two political parties on all the important national issues, the delegation assured cooperation with the Pakistan Muslim League.

Sharif Reaffirms Opposition to Midterm Elections

BK1407112593 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Jul 93 pp 1, 13

[Text] Islamabad July 13—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday [13 July] held his third meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and again stressed that in his opinion mid-term election is not the solution to defuse the present crisis in the country.

According to insiders during his 80-minute meeting with the President, the Prime Minister asked the President to use his influence to stop the opposition's long march on July 15 which he believed could disturb the capital.

Earlier the Prime Minister held his scheduled meeting with the Chief of the Army Staff [COAS], General Abdul Waheed, and asked him to deploy military in Islamabad to stop the marchers.

The insiders said that both the President and the Army Chief did not agree with the Prime Minister to stop the opposition's long march on July 16 and instead stressed the need for finding political solution of the present crisis.

The Prime Minister went to the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] along with Federal Minister for Agriculture Lt Gen (Retd) Abdul Majid Malik but at the eleventh hour he decided to meet Ishaq Khan alone. Earlier it was planned that the Prime Minister's special assistant, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan would also accompany the Prime Minister but the idea was dropped.

Officials of the Presidency issued a three-line handout about the meeting saying that both the President and the Prime Minister decided to continue meeting in future "to defuse the present political crisis in the country."

However, there was no official word from the Prime Minister's secretariat about the meeting. When contacted they said that Nawaz Sharif was still sticking to his original position that elections were not the solution of the present crisis.

They said that the Prime Minister has asked both the President and the COAS to play their constitutional role to protect the federation and force the provinces to give up their opposition to the Centre.

"The Prime Minister has told both of them that it is their constitutional and moral obligation to help stop the long march and support his legal and constitutional government", an official of the Prime Minister's secretariat said.

Insiders claimed tht there was no breakthrough at both the meetings of the Prime Minister with the President and the Army Chief. The President insisted on early polls while the Army Chief told him that he was not prepared to sacrifice his neutrality by providing troops to stop the marchers.

The sources said that the Prime Minister's deadlock with the President continued to persist with Mr. Ishaq Khan asking the Prime Minister to seek rapprochement with the opposition parties rather with him.

The President, the source said, told Nawaz Sharif that despite a vilification campaign launched against him by the Nawaz Sharif government he would continue to say in the best interest of the country that elections be held to pull the country out of the present crisis.

The sources said that when the President raised the issue of what he termed "vilification campaign" against him the Prime Minister said he did not know about that and that he would try in future that such thing did not happen.

The President, the sources added, told the Prime Minister that whatever was said against him by the so-called spokesman of the Muslim League was in fact a briefing by the Prime Minister's press secretary and the officials of the government were being used against him.

On Monday the 90-minute meeting between the President and the Prime Minister look place in the presence of the leaders of the Deeni Mahaz led by Senator Maulana Samiul Haq.

The officials of the President's House have described the statement of Maulana Samiul Haq carried by a section of the press, as "very strange".

When contacted these officials of Aiwan-i-Sadr said they did not know why some people uttered such words which were not in fact said during the meeting. "They denied that the Prime Minister had angrily got up three times to leave the Aiwan-i-Sadr nor he was presented a glass of milk and others glasses of juices."

Sharif, Khan Said To Reach 'Weak Consensus' on Polls

BK1407112793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 14 Jul 93 p 1

[By Nosheen]

[Text] Islamabad—High-ups in the capital remained busy in hectic discussions to seek a solution to the ongoing political crisis as president and prime minister Tuesday [13 July] had another round of talks following their two abortive meetings on Monday. The prime minister earlier met the COAS [chief of army staff] for about one and a half hour at the prime minister's house.

According to sources a 'weak consensus' was developed on holding midterm polls, but both parties are yet to agree on a single formula about the caretaker arrangements in pre-election period.

A proposal was put forward that Nawaz Sharif will continue as the caretaker prime minister while rest of the cabinet will be formed through consensus or will be a broad coalition of all parties.

The provincial assemblies will also be dissolved and a neutral cabinet will be inducted, according to the proposal.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif insisted on waiting for the decision of the Lahore High Court and Supreme Court opinion and also favoured the continuation of the existing provincial cabinets in the caretaker setup.

According to an official handout dialogues will continue in subsequent meetings to be held later.

According to PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL] Chief of the Army Staff General Abdul Waheed had an important meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the prime minister's house.

Informed sources told PPI that during the meeting which lasted 75 minutes, Nawaz exchanged views with the army chief on the current situation in the country and discussed ways and means to defuse it.

Sources described Nawaz-Waheed meeting as a follow up of prime minister's Monday's meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Meanwhile Gen. Waheed refused to meet the APC [All Party Conference] leaders, who sought a meeting with him, army sources confided to THE FRONTIER POST.

The APC leaders, including Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Abdul Hafaez Pirzada, contacted the authorities for arranging a meeting with the army chief to discuss the prevailing political situation. However, they were told by the concerned authority that the Army chief was not supposed to meet political leaders to discuss political situation.

The APC leaders insisted that the army chief always met the president and the prime minister, especially during the current political turmoil. However, they were told that the prime minister and the president were the constitutional functionaries of the state and the COAS would meet them whenever called upon, sources further added.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif may announce holding of fresh elections during next 48 hours. THE FRONTIER POST has learnt that the prime minister hinted to go to polls in order to foil to [as published] opposition's long march scheduled for July 16.

Nawaz is said to have decided to take the federal cabinet and allied parties in to confidence about the mid-term polls.

He has already convened a special meeting of the cabinet at the parliament house this morning (Wednesday) at 9 a.m. following which he is likely to once again meet the president and convey the cabinet's decisions.

Sharif Proposes 'Immediate' Meeting With Bhutto

BK1507025893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has proposed an immediate meeting with Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, to initiate a political dialogue to improve the present situation. Answering Bhutto's 9 July letter, the prime minister said that if she is hesitant to come to the prime minister's house or the prime minister's secretariat, they could meet in one of the committee rooms of parliament.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said Benazir Bhutto's insistence on announcing a date for elections is totally prejudicial to the basic principles of the parliamentary system because it is only the right of the majority party to decide on midterm elections.

The prime minister said the dissolution of the National Assembly in the current phase has created many complications. The formation of the so-called national government, which in no way conforms to our parliamentary system, is not a solution for these complications. The prime minister has, however, fully supported the opposition leader's proposed constitutional and electoral reforms to strengthen the democratic system and has said that he is ready for talks with her on these matters.

The prime minister referred to some conflicting viewpoints and said in Bhutto's 4 July letter, which mentioned the constitutional reforms, that she was absolutely correct to say that Article 58-2B of the Constitution should be abrogated. But three days later, she openly requested the president to use the powers provided under this article to once again dissolve the National Assembly. Similarly, while she is emphasizing the rule of law and the supremacy of the Constitution, her party workers are openly criticizing the Supreme Court and the high courts.

Referring to Benazir Bhutto's emphasis on constitutional and electoral reforms, the prime minister said the speaker of the National Assembly has already set up a committee to review various proposals on improving the Constitution. He added that their talks at this time on the matters under consideration of the committee will greatly contribute to the committee's work.

The prime minister in his letter also said that in spite of objections raised by her on many points, Bhutto has also put forward many positive proposals on which talks can be held for their implementation.

Daily Views Military's Role in Political Crisis

BK1407095993 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 8 Jul 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Political Crisis—the Question of Military's Impartiality"]

[Text] The chairman of the U.S. Congressional Committee on Asia-Pacific Affairs has said that the United States is not in favor of the imposition of martial law in Pakistan and that the promotion of better relations between the United States and Pakistan will depend on the progress of the democratic process in that country. A commentary broadcast by the Deutsche Welle has stated that the political crisis in Pakistan is not over yet. Traditionally, whenever the struggle for power intensified in the past, the military had to impose martial law to rectify the situation. But under the current situation, the possibility of this happening is remote.

The current political deadlock in the country has given rise to rumors about the imposition of martial law. The sole aim of the efforts by the defeated politicians and political orphans looking for the opportunity to grab power through the back door is to destabilize the civilian government—formed as a result of the general elections in 1990—even if this requires the imposition of martial law in the country.

As a matter of fact, martial law cannot solve any domestic political problem of the country. There have, of course, been eras of martial law in Pakistan in the past. In the 1950's and 1960's, even the United States, because of its priorities, welcomed the martial law governments in developing and backward countries because it was easier to control the policies of the entire country through a single martial law administrator. But nowadays, the democratic political process has created political awareness among people not only in the United States but in the entire world, and hence they have started to abhor martial law or any undemocratic, unconstitutional, and autocratic government that tramples on their basic human rights. This is the reason why, ever since the 17 August 1988 tragedy [in which President Ziaul Haq was killed] in Pakistan, the military has not tried to impose martial law, even though the politicians created "suitable conditions" for them to do so. The military leaders have openly expressed the policy that they will devote their attention to their professional responsibilities, and that they do not intend to interfere in politics and the government.

The military has hinted that it will remain "impartial" in the current situation. This indication of "impartiality" encouraged the president to dismiss the federal government and dissolve the National Assembly on 18 April. But when [words indistinct], the Supreme Court declared the president's 18 April order illegal and unconstitutional and restored the federal government and the National Assembly, the president's team turned the provinces into its political amphitheater. The provincial assemblies in the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] were dissolved. While the Peshawar High Court is hearing the case of the dissolution of the NWFP Assembly, the Lahore High Court has declared the Punjab Assembly's dissolution unconstitutional. But just four minutes after the court's decision, the Punjab Assembly was redissolved. Earlier, when the high court restored the Punjab Assembly through its interim order, the speaker of the house made a bizarre decision and refused to accept the interim restoration of the assembly. In the meantime, the members of the Punjab Provincial Assembly have moved a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister Wattoo. According to the latest report, 141 members of the provincial assembly are in favor of electing Chaudhary Parvez Elahi the new chief minister. Chief Minister Manzoor Wattoo's continuation in his office has, therefore, become doubtful. But he has announced that he will organize a long march to the federal capital on Friday to rid the country of the occupation groups. Reports have also come in that a strategy has been prepared to paralyze the federal government through the long march. It is ironical that the forces that are occupying the seats of power without any representative status, and whose action in redissolving the provincial assembly are being examined by the high court, are calling the duly elected federal government an occupation groups. Is this not weird?

The Punjab government's decision to stage a long march in Islamabad is not an action motivated by legal, political, and fundamental rights. The plan for such a long march is based on the calculation that there are almost no police personnel at the disposal of the federal government in Islamabad. Therefore, the plan was made either to storm the federal capital with such a force that it is impossible for the Islamabad police to check it and maintain law and order, or to collect "corpses," thereby paving the way for either direct or devious intervention by a third force.

The federal government also does not know if the Rangers will follow its orders if they are called in to maintain law and order in Islamabad. Earlier, a similar bid to call the Rangers in Lahore was thwarted by the highest level of the Army "to avert bloodshed," as was claimed in an Inter-Services Public Relations press release. Similarly, it is also not known whether the Army will follow the government's directive if it is asked to maintain law and order. According to the Constitution, it is the Army's duty to follow the federal government's legal directives. Although the president is the supreme commander of the Army, it is also an accepted principle that the elected federal government is the chief executive of the country. The Supreme Court verdict made it clear that in a parliamentary democracy the president is only a titular head, while the prime minister has full rights to use the government's authority as chief executive. It is not difficult to understand the situation the country is currently facing is dur to the Army's decision to remain neutral. Constitutionally, there is no scope for the Army's neutrality. How can it remain neutral in protecting the country's security and implementing the legitimate orders of the legal government? But in a country like Pakistan, where power is shared by several forces and where a disciplined institution like the Army is most influential in decision making, it should at least differentiate between [words indistinct] so that the elected government and the country's judiciary succeed in their efforts to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution and the law. The supremacy of the Constitution and law needs to be maintained in the country so as to counter the threats to the democratic system and continue the process of democratic politics.

The issue of the Punjab government's plan to "storm" Islamabad on 16 July needs to be viewed from this perspective as well. Today, a big province is confronting the federal government. But if attempts are made tomorrow in the name of "constitutional, political, and provincial autonomy" by any small province with a history of movements—like Pashtunistan, Sindhu Desh, or Greater Balochistan—will the Army be able to maintain its "partiality" [as published]? The elected government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto once launched an Army operation against "such rebellion." Therefore, the Punjab government's long march to Islamabad on 16 July and the opposition's politics and its overall objectives [words indistinct] keeping in view the interests of Pakistan.

Police Charge MQM With Promoting Karachi Violence

BK1407155693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] In Karachi, miscreants set fire to at least six vehicles in District East early this morning. An official press note says miscreants tried to set fire to KESC [Karachi Electric Supply Corporation] building in Korangi and a post office in Malir area. Police and law enforcement agencies patrols have been intensified and the situation is under control.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at at 1304 GMT on 14 July carries a Karachi-datelined item which reads: "Violence flared here Wednesday [14 July] with arson attacks on government-owned enterprises as mass arrests of workers for an ethnic party in Pakistan's Sindh Province topped 250 after three days, police sources said.

["Workers of the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), an urban ethnic party with strongholds in Karachi and Hyderabad, were being charged by police with promoting violence.

["MQM leader Ishtiaq Azhar denied the charges, saying the MQM was being accused of the attacks to create electoral confusion and stop people from voting in July 22 by-elections.

["In the early hours Wednesday, the offices of the local electricity billing office was set on fire, police sources said. Arson attacks on a post office and a telephone and telegraph office were also reported by the fire brigade.

["Evening newspapers reported attacks on a railway station and a local bank, but they could not be independently confirmed.

["At least 10 cars, including that of a local administration official, have been gutted since violence first erupted on Sunday and six stated-owned buses have been set ablaze by unidentified people over three days of violence.

["More than 400 of our boys have been arrested, including candidates for the upcoming by-elections," said Azhar.

["The by-elections are scheduled for 12 constituencies in Karachi, Hyerabad and Tharparkar. The seats were vacated after MQM deputies resign en masse last year following an army crackdown on the party.

["Arrests of MQM workers also continued in Hyderabad, some 150 kilometres (90 miles) from here.

["According to newspaper reports, more than 80 had been arrested by Tuesday evening. Acts of arson and attacks on government-owned enterprises were also reported from Hyderabad, the second largest city in Sindh, Pakistan's southernmost province.]

PLO's Qaddumi Meets With Ishaq Khan, Kanjoo

BK1407153293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The foreign minister of the state of Palestine, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] today. The president expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] ministerial meeting and lauded the action-oriented approach with which the meeting disposed of its agenda and came out with concrete proposals to deal with the situation in Bosnia. The president particularly appreciated the commitment by Muslim countries to raise additional armed contingents for contributing to United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia. He hoped that similar generosity will be shown by them in raising funds required for financing the operation. Mr. Qaddumi briefed the president about the present state of Middle East peace talks of which the 10th round has recently been completed. He explained to the president the PLO's point of view on various issues discussed during the peace negotiations. The president reiterated Pakistan's full support to the Palestinian cause and for PLO's efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem in accordance with the relevant UN resolution based on the principles of self-determination. Mr. Qaddumi conveyed to the president Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's thanks for Pakistan's continued help and support.

The foreign minister of Palestine, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, has called for implementation of UN resolution to resolve the Kashmir issue. He made the call during his talks with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, in Islamabad today. Mr. Faruq Qaddumi expressed his deep appreciation to the government and the people of Pakistan for their support to the cause of Palestine. Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo said the resolution of the Palestinian issue is essential for peace and stability in the Middle East. During the meeting, the two sides also reviewed bilateral relations.

Foreign NGO's in NWFP Ordered To Close; Arabs To Be Deported

BK1507550793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Jul 93 p 5

[By Ismail Khan]

[Text] Peshawar—The federal government has ordered the closing of 14 foreign Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating in the Frontier province.

An official source said the decision was made at a high level meeting held in Islamabad on June 28 which was attended by officials of the Home, Interior and Foreign Ministries and intelligence agencies. The step has come following the crackdown on foreigners, on April 6, staying illegally in Pakistan. The source said a decision had also been made to cut down the number of expatriates working in foreign NGOs by 50 percent and to order them to leave Pakistan within three months.

The NGOs have been further directed to terminate the services of Egyptians, Algerian and Tunisian workers who, according to the source, would subsequently be externed from Pakistan. All decisions would be implemented within three months and orders in this connection have been passed on to the Afghan Commissionerate for implementation.

"The Afghan war is over and these NGOs have no reason to stay here anymore," said Sher Gul Khan, Secretary of the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees.

A government official said these NGOs had lost their usefulness and their performance was no longer satisfactory. "Its a false statement," said Mohammad Salim, Director of the Muslim Aid, whose agency is one of those ordered to be closed down. He said the NGOs were providing massive assistance to the Afghan refugees. "They (Afghans) needed us more than before—we are victims of a global conspiracy," he alledged. "We are definitely going to take-up the matter in the Islamic Coordination Council and register our resentment," he said."

The Muslim Aid was founded by famous ex-pop star Cat Stevens, who converted to Islam and now carries the name of Yousuf Islam in 1987 to help Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Out of the 98 foreign NGOs, the government has ordered the closure of 14 NGOs. Most of these organisations, according to an Arab source, were involved in relief and welfare activities.

Commissionner of Afghan Refugees Rustam Shah Mohamad said the orders were in process and the NGOs would be closed down within the stipulated time. A government official said more than 500 Arabs were working for these NGOs and with the implementations of the 50 percent on their number, around 250 Arabs would lose their jobs.

The NGOs which have been ordered to wrap up include committee Afghan De-solidarite (Canada), German Afghan Committee (Afghan), Aid Medical International (Afghan), Short-Term Assistance Rehabilitation Team, Afghan Medical Aid, Save The Children, Reconstruction and Rural Development of Afghanistan, Mujahid Medical Centre and Afghan Aid Association.

The three Arab NGOs which have been asked to go include: Human Concern International, Human Relief Organisation and Muslim Aid.